

Border post troops hit by twin blasts

Seven dead in IRA 'human' bomb attacks

By JAMIE DETTMER AND EDWARD GORMAN

SIX soldiers were killed in simultaneous IRA bombings at army checkpoints in Northern Ireland yesterday. One of the civilians forced to drive the bombs to their targets also died. Another escaped with a broken leg.

The "proxy bombings" in Londonderry and Newry injured a further 17 people, including two policemen, a pensioner and a year-old child. A third bomb driven to the Lisanelly army barracks in Omagh some hours later was defused.

The death toll was the biggest inflicted on the security forces since eight soldiers died in a bus bombing in April 1988. Until yesterday, only one soldier had been killed in Northern Ireland this year.

Politicians denounced as cowardly the tactic of forcing civilians to carry explosives.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, said the IRA had sunk to new levels of depravity by using "human bombs". The IRA said the drivers had been involved in construction for the security forces.

Gunmen had taken over Patsy Gillespie's house in the

Shanallow area of Londonderry on Tuesday night and held his family hostage before forcing him to drive a van loaded with explosives to the Cosquin checkpoint. It was the second time he had been pressed into such a mission and the terrorists told his wife he would be home within the half-hour. The bomb exploded almost immediately after the vehicle drew up into the checkpoint's search bay shortly after 4am, killing Mr Gillespie and five soldiers of the 1st Battalion, the King's Regiment.

Five other soldiers were injured and 25 houses in the adjacent Benview estate were badly damaged. The explosion blew a huge crater in the road and demolished much of the checkpoint.

At the same time, gunmen forced a man aged 65 and eight members of his family from their home at Rathfriland Road, Newry, and taken to another house. The pensioner was ordered to drive the bomb to the Cloughmoe checkpoint while his relatives were held captive. When he arrived, the man climbed out of his van and shouted a warning but Cyril Smith, a Royal Irish Ranger aged 21, was killed. Ten soldiers and two policemen were injured and the driver suffered a broken leg. A primary school near by was badly damaged and debris was blown on to the Belfast-Dublin railway, which was closed, as was the Newry-Dundalk road.

At Omagh, the driver of the bomb was strapped into the car but managed to wriggle free. It is believed that the detonator exploded but failed to ignite the commercial explosive in the vehicle.

The security forces believe that the IRA clearly planned the three-pronged attack across Northern Ireland to show that recent setbacks for the terrorists in the province have not blunted their campaign.

Earlier this month, two IRA gunmen were killed in an ambush in Co Armagh.

Mr Brooke said in the Commons that the bombings showed the inhumanity of the terrorists and the sterility of their thinking. "They have sunk to new levels of depravity by using people whose

families have been held hostage as human bombs. It is hard to imagine anything more evil than tying a man into his car laden with explosives and then forcing him to drive to where the bomb was detonated. Horrible as these murders have been, they have not advanced the cause of those who perpetrated them by a single millimetre. Indeed, they have set it back still further."

Kevin McNamara, the Labour spokesman on Northern Ireland, condemned the killings and said the IRA offered only "dead ends and graveyards". John Hume, the SDLP leader, said it was "total downright cowardice". Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist security spokesman, said: "It demonstrates the futility of the IRA campaign." He accused the IRA of designing the bombs so that they would explode within seconds of their arrival.

Mr Gillespie, aged 45, was the first proxy bomber to be killed. His wife, Kathleen, said last night "I am so angry. This is the second time they have done this to me. I am only just getting over the first time. When they left at 4am, they ripped out the phone and told me not to do anything because my husband would be home soon."

Police later found Mr Gillespie's Vauxhall Astra parked about three-quarters of a mile from the Londonderry checkpoint. It had probably been used by IRA men following him to make sure he carried out his instructions, as they did the Omagh driver. The bomb may have been on a timer or detonated by remote control from the Astra or some other vantage point. It was ten hours before Mr Gillespie's body was found.

The soldiers who died in Londonderry were named last night as Lance Corporal Stephen Burrows, aged 30, of Blackpool, who was married with a son aged three, and Kingsmen Stephen Becham, 20, from Warrington; Paul Worrall, 23, from Runcorn; Vincent Scott, 21, from Liverpool and David Sweeney, 19, from Widnes, all of whom were single.

Easy targets, page 2



Bomb devastation: the army checkpoint at Londonderry after it was hit by a bomb driven into the post by an IRA 'proxy'

Welfare boost to young and old

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE government sought to strengthen its family credentials yesterday by announcing a £5 billion boost in welfare payments next year designed to help young and old.

However, Labour insisted the government had broken its manifesto pledge in failing to uprate child benefit across the board, and child welfare organisations dismissed the £1 extra on the first-born child as a "missed opportunity".

Most of the increase from April is swallowed up by the automatic uprating in line with the 10.9 per cent inflation rate of pensions, invalidity and unemployment benefits, and social security payments.

Yet the political finances of Tony Newton, the social services secretary, in juggling with the other items in his package won plaudits from his backbenchers. Total spending on social security goes up from £53 billion this year to £58 billion next year, an increase of 9.4 per cent.

Child benefit for the first-born is to rise by £1 a week to £8.25 from April at a cost to the taxpayer of £260 million. Nearly seven million mothers will gain, but rates for other children will remain frozen at £7.25, the level for the past three years. Sir Norman Fowle said: "It must be seen as a missed opportunity."

Benefits rise, page 2

Iraq using hostages in effort to split alliance

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD AND PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

IRAQ yesterday sought to isolate Britain and the US from their other Western allies when it suggested that hostages from countries with no hostile intent against Baghdad should be freed.

A sustained diplomatic offensive by the Iraqi ambassador in Paris yesterday also removed any lingering doubt that Iraq sees release of the French hostages as a means of undermining the Western alliance now confronting President Saddam Hussein.

In an apparent change of policy, Latif Jassim, the minister of information and a member of the ruling Revolutionary Council Committee, appeared to confirm suspicions that President Saddam was intent on trying to drive a wedge into the alliance lined up against him. Mr Jassim, who spoke after a meeting with President Saddam, said that Iraq was constantly evaluating events abroad and reviewing its policy on the holding of hostages.

"We will monitor the situation and watch how this country behaves and that country behaves, and on the basis of that we will make our decisions," he said.

Clearly impressed by recent television coverage of anti-war demonstrations in the US and Japan, and rebroadcast in Iraq, Mr Jassim said: "The Iraqi government hears and sees all the signals from around the world. From the United States and Great Britain until now we only

receive signals of war. We receive signals of hatred from Bush and Thatcher."

However, concerning the French, he said: "We want to give the French people, the French government, a signal that we are not their enemy."

They said they would enter the war. They did not take part in aggression against Iraq. They will take a defensive position towards Iraq. This is very important to us."

The move came after the announcement on Tuesday night in the Iraqi parliament that all 298 French hostages in Iraq and Kuwait were free to go because of Paris' announcement that its forces based in Saudi Arabia would not be used to attack Iraq or Kuwait.

"We cannot say that the French stand is identical with Iraq's, but the stand of the French towards the crisis is getting clearer and clearer towards peace," the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, said during the debate in the assembly, which unanimously voted to free the French hostages.

France reacted swiftly to the announcement of the release by saying that it would not affect its policy towards the Gulf, in particular its adherence to UN Security Council resolutions aimed at forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. A spokesman for the French foreign ministry said: "The taking of hostages is odious. Their liberation is merely an atonement for that

inadmissible act. France cannot lend itself to any negotiations whatsoever on this issue."

Michel Rocard, the prime minister, later told the National Assembly that while he rejoiced in the announcement that the hostages would be freed, it was a "unilateral decision" by Baghdad.

After the invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent UN sanctions imposed against Iraq, Baghdad refused to allow thousands of trapped foreigners to leave. Hundreds of Britons, Americans, French, Germans, Japanese, and other western nationals were taken to strategic sites to act as human shields in the event of a US attack.

Western diplomats in Baghdad dismissed the Iraqi actions as a "cynical game of bargaining for bodies" aimed at splitting the unprecedented world stance on Iraq. "If the Iraqis think they have got something out of it let them believe it," one diplomat said.

Hostage death, page 12
Diary, page 16

Labour rebels hit by vote

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs exacted revenge yesterday on the shadow cabinet rebels who defied Neil Kinnock over defence spending at the party conference. Four of the six who voted against the Labour leader in the national executive committee suffered big falls in their votes in the annual shadow cabinet elections.

John Prescott finished last of the 18 elected positions, Bryan Gould came seventeenth after topping the poll only three years ago, Jo Richardson fell from seventh to fifteenth and Joan Lester lost her seat.

Miss Lester is replaced by Ann Taylor, whose performance as environment spokesman has been highly rated. The most striking advance was made by Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, who rose to third place.

Rising star, page 11
Leading article, page 17

INSIDE

Warren tells of shooting

Frank Warren, the boxing promoter, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday how a hooded gunman pointed a pistol at him and fired into his chest from a range of 6 ft. The former world boxing champion Terry Marsh denies attempting to murder Mr Warren.

Donaldson plea

Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, yesterday urged lawyers to improve their handling of appeal cases. He said some lawyers either failed to understand the appeal process or were misusing it.

Bhutto setback

Benazir Bhutto, dismissed as Pakistan's prime minister 11 weeks ago, appeared last night to be in serious trouble in the general election. Senior officials of her Pakistan People's Party estimated that she might capture fewer than 80 of the 207 Muslim seats.

Embryo control

The German parliament yesterday passed the world's first law aimed at controlling genetic engineering of human embryos. The law prohibits production of embryos for research.

Lenders warned

Lenders and brokers have been warned they may lose their consumer credit licences if they continue to target people in debt to offer new loans. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading, revealed.

Polly Peck bust

Polly Peck, the international trading company, is to be wound up. The company yesterday decided to petition the high court for an administration order.

Law results

The Law Society Final Examination results will be published in *The Times* tomorrow. Copies will be on sale this evening from 10.00 at Victoria, Charing Cross and Kings Cross stations and at Leicester Square.

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Gas workers seek 20% wage rise

By TIM JONES AND KEVIN EASON

MORE than 28,000 gas workers last night embarked on a fight to win one of the highest pay rises in industry when they submitted demands for a 20 per cent wage rise.

They tabled their claim as 31,000 Rover workers looked certain to accept an inflation-beating pay rise of 11 per cent, which would give them an extra £20 a week.

The Rover deal will add fuel to government worries that private sector companies cannot hold down wage inflation in the winter pay round, sparking similar demands from thousands of workers in the public sector.

Rover's agreement, achieved last night after three days of negotiations, is also worth 7.5 per cent from November 1, 1991. Pay packets will rise to £240 a week by

next November and then by a further £15, including productivity bonuses.

The car company said at the start of talks that rises well above inflation would have to be funded by job losses, echoing the call from Michael Howard, the employment secretary, that wage rises had to be restrained.

Executives seemed to have backed away from their initial tough stance by allowing a deal fractionally over the current inflation rate of 10.9 per cent. Rob Lummis, Rover's employee relations director, said last night, however, that the deal, which will be put to ballot among the workforce at Birmingham and Oxford in the next few days, was not inflationary.

He said: "It must be seen as a missed opportunity."

Continued on page 28, col 1

Teenagers sharpen their image with surgery

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

FROM New York to California teens are going under the knife, financed and sometimes encouraged by doting parents who believe bodily perfection to be a more desirable birthday present than a stereo or a car.

Tiffany White, a schoolgirl aged 17 from suburban Los Angeles, never liked her chubby cheeks. "A lot of people said I looked like Bette Midler and that really bothered me," she said. In the old days she would have had to lump it. But this year she joined thousands of other American teenagers in opting for surgery and had the fat vacuumed out and her nose remodelled while she was at it.

Tracy and Stacy Sobut, twins, also aged 17, from Chicago, chose matching nose jobs. Boys "go for the

physical appearance", Tracy explained. "We might as well look the best for the guys we want."

Once the domain of the rich and vain, "aesthetic surgery", as the practitioners prefer to call it, is doing wonders for adolescent self-esteem and making millions for doctors, at the same time prompting quails among professional bodies. Teenagers need no longer submit even to the time-honoured bout with acne. For a few hundred dollars a surgeon will remove it by dermabrasion, a sort of sandpapering technique.

Teenagers have become a big market for plastic surgery, said Dr Martin Sullivan, an Illinois surgeon who says between eight and ten teenagers consult him every month. Some surgeons estimate that teenagers account for 25 per cent of their

business. According to the last available figures, for 1988, 117,000 teenagers under 18, that is 16 per cent of the total, had nose surgery. Teenagers also accounted for 16 per cent of ear pinning, 9 per cent of chin augmentation and breast reduction, 7 per cent of hair replacement and 7 per cent of dermabrasion that year. An increasing number of Asian teenagers are having blepharoplasty, an eyelid operation which produces a more Caucasian, round-eyed look.

In many states no parental permission is necessary for those over 16, although doctors explain that they are careful to screen out patients whose problems have nothing to do with their looks. Most say they will not carry out liposuction (fat removal) unless they are sure the child has already shed its puppy fat. Only a few

girls are able to persuade doctors to augment their breasts although many receive collagen injections, the lip-inflating technique that imparts the Kim Basinger look.

Cosmetic surgeons argue that surgery can help cure the insecurity and self-consciousness that comes from a lack of self-esteem. It can "take years off a psychiatrist's couch", Dr Walter Berman, a Beverly Hills surgeon told *The Wall Street Journal* in a recent investigation.

But some doctors are concerned that colleagues are a little too quick with the scalpel. Dr Frederick Stucker, professor of otolaryngology at Louisiana State University, attacked those who argued for the right of teenagers to face-lifts. "I think we send the wrong message when we are willing to do it for teens," he said.



Challenge for BA

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways could face increased competition on five of its most lucrative trans-Atlantic routes if the proposed \$400 million (£205 million) takeover of Pan Am's Heathrow operations by United Airlines is given the go-ahead.

United plan to start operations to New York, Washington, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle from next April, if given approval by the British and US Governments. British Airways, which signed

a marketing agreement with United two years ago, last night remained unconcerned, however, arguing they have already faced competition from Pan Am on the five routes.

Lord King, BA chairman, said that if approval was granted for United's plans British Airways would want something in return, such as extended rights in the US.

Dog fight threatens, Page 31

"Oh no... not another whine and cheese party..."

"Think Global!" said the Chief Executive.

"But always remember the local market!" warned the Marketing Director.

"More volume, more quality customers!" demanded the Sales Director.

The fighting talk had left us shell-shocked, and worse was to come... the conference cocktail party.

Oh no... not another whine and cheese party! I thought, more shop, more work.



I couldn't have been more wrong, because we were in Jersey. The chap who organised the conference was born here, and he'd arranged a wine tasting for us at La Mare, the island's vineyard.

Beautiful spot, deep in the country, we forgot all about business - just what we needed. Strolling around the vineyard was like being back in Bordeaux.

Jersey's like that... you could be in Britain one minute, France the next.

There is talk of coming back next year and having the party in a medieval castle.

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Newton attracts criticism over 'second best' child benefit rise

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TONY Newton, the social security minister, attracted criticism yesterday for elements of his £2.5 billion benefit uprating package.

The increase in child benefit, giving families an extra £1 a week for the first child, appeared Tory backbenchers but was dismissed by child poverty organisations as second best. Organisations representing the elderly were angry that Mr Newton failed to increase income support payments for residential homes at the same rate as rises in unemployment benefit and the retirement pension.

Most groups received a 10.9 per

cent rise in their benefits in line with inflation. The basic retirement pension rises by £5.10 a week for a single person, from £46.90 to £52.00, and by £8.15 a week for a couple, from £75.10 to £83.25.

Unemployment benefit rises from £37.35 to £41.40 for a single person and from £60.40 to £66.95 for a couple, while sickness benefit goes up from £35.70 to £39.60 for a single person and from £57.80 to £64.10 for a couple.

Income support payments for residential homes, however, were increased by only £5 a week, from £155 to £160, except for those caring for more dependent groups, which get a £15 a week increase.

An additional £225 million has instead been directed at nursing homes, which get a £45 increase to £255 a week for the elderly and mentally ill. Income support payments for the mentally handicapped rise by £35 to £260 a week in nursing homes. Those for physically disabled people rise by the same amount to £290 a week.

Mr Newton justified the lower increase for residential homes by citing a Price Waterhouse survey on nursing and residential care. "While the limits for residential care are reasonably close to the median rates across the country, those for nursing homes were significantly too low," he said.

The overall benefit rises, which

come into effect next April include an £80 million increase in the basic pensioner premium rates to help those who were less well off. The basic premium for pensioners aged 60 to 74 on income support, housing benefit and community charge benefit is to rise by £1 a week more for a single person, and £1.50 for a couple than under a straightforward uprating. This helps about 400,000 pensioners by putting premium payments up to £13.75 for a single pensioner and £20.90 for a couple.

Mr Newton also announced a doubling of the budget for the Independent Living Fund, which helps 6,000 disabled people to live at home, to £62 million. In

addition, the amount that carers can earn without their invalid care allowance being affected has increased by 50 per cent, and carers will be entitled to benefit for up to eight weeks after the death of the person they had cared for.

Mr Newton said: "What I have announced helps families with children and families-to-be. It helps large numbers of less-well-off pensioners. It will ease the anxieties of families concerned with the care of elderly and disabled relatives and of those relatives themselves, and it builds on what we are already doing to give greater help to disabled people."

In his commonsense statement Mr

Newton explained further changes to maternity allowances and statutory sick pay. The lower of the two sick pay rates will be fully uprated, rising from £39.25 to £43.50, but the higher rate remains unchanged at £52.50, saving £100 million next year. However, statutory maternity pay is to go up by £39.25 to £44.50, and maternity allowance will rise from £35.70 to £40.60 a week, adding a £1 to the full uprating.

● The number of people waiting for hospital operations in England has risen to an all-time high of 960,000, according to latest figures from the health department. The figures, which will prove highly embarrassing to the government,

show that 710,300 people were on the in-patient waiting list at the end of March this year compared with 698,600 at the end of last September, a rise of 2 per cent.

During the same period, the number of people waiting for day surgery rose by 11 per cent, from 182,300 to 202,500. In addition, 46,100 patients were waiting for operations that they had postponed themselves.

The statistics show that repeated government initiatives, including a specific waiting list fund, have failed to stem the rise in the number of people waiting for hospital treatment.

Daytime care, page 9

Food stocks 'under threat from global warming'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

GLOBAL warming could bring sunflowers and soya beans to the fields of southern England and allow Birmingham to produce red wines to rival those of Bordeaux, according to the author of a new book published yesterday.

Martin Parry of Birmingham university, launching his study in London, said that global warming would, however, produce less benign effects for the rest of the world. It would reduce food production, increase prices and introduce new uncertainties for food supplies. Those at greatest risk would be the one billion people who lived in semi-arid regions, including much of Africa.

Professor Parry, a member of the inter-governmental panel on climate change, based his study on a continuation of present trends which could produce a 1.1°C rise in mean temperatures by 2030.

The results were released yesterday by the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Institute for Applied System Analysis, who financed the work.

Dr Parry said that today's main cereal producers, including the United States, Canada, and western Europe, could see output fall by up to 30 per cent while globally it could fall by 10-20 per cent.

Each 1°C rise in mean temperatures would drive the limits for growing most crops 300 kilometres further north in the northern hemisphere, Dr Parry said. That meant that western Europe would see a shift of agriculture from south to north, with crops like grain, maize, sunflowers and soya beans becoming established in southern Britain, as wheat, barley and grass moved northwards to Yorkshire and Northumberland.

In semi-arid regions, any reduction in rainfall would

cause drought, erosion and desertification. The monsoon rains might migrate closer to the poles.

Dr Parry said that it was very difficult to combine the different changes to produce an overall picture, and admitted considerable uncertainty in his projections.

Those gaining most from global warming would be Japan, Scandinavia, the Soviet Union and parts of Australia. Japan might become self-sufficient in rice, while Iceland might be able to grow cereals. Crop yields could increase by 10-20 per cent in parts of the Soviet Union.

The biggest losers would probably be the United States, Canada, much of Africa, the Middle East, central America, north eastern Brazil, and southern Europe.

Climate change and world agriculture, by Martin Parry (Earthscan Publications, £9.95)



The border checkpoint near Newry that was wrecked by an IRA bomb yesterday. One soldier died in the attack and ten others were injured

Border posts are 'easy targets'

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE PROXY bombings by the IRA yesterday have highlighted the vulnerability of border checkpoints to terrorist attack. The checkpoints, many of which are sited in republican areas, have long been seen by several Northern Ireland politicians as easy targets.

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, said that the checkpoints dotted along the border were not serving any practical purpose. He disputed how effective the permanent look-out posts were in discouraging terrorists slipping across the border and doubted whether they prevented the movement of arms and explosives.

The vulnerability of the posts was emphasised last December when two soldiers were killed in a 20-minute gun and bomb assault on a checkpoint at Derry, co Fermanagh. Yesterday's bombings bore a remarkable similarity to the Derry incident in which a proxy explosive device was delivered to the post before gunmen opened fire.

Transporting soldiers to the

look-out posts has also been fraught with difficulty, in spite of the frequent use of helicopters. In some areas, soldiers are still transported by road. In March last year two soldiers on their way to the Londonderry checkpoint were killed by an IRA landmine. Other killings and bombings have been carried out close to the look-out posts with the IRA apparently undeterred by the close presence of permanent military bases.

There have been several killings on the Newry-Dundalk road within a few miles of the post at Cloughogue. In April 1987, Lord Justice Gibson and his wife were killed by a landmine. Questions were then asked about how the terrorists managed to handle the mine to the side of the road within sight of a border tower and a couple of miles from the look-out post, although a petrol station probably obstructed the view from the tower. Last month, a police constable was abducted on the same stretch of road and later shot dead.

Mural uncovered in country home

By WILLIAM CASH

A 19th century mural of naked women enjoying a Bacchanalian musical feast has been discovered in a Georgian country house in Somerset.

The epicurean scenes - illustrating behaviour described in Plato's *Symposium* - were uncovered by George Pegram, aged 55, night manager of an abattoir, and his wife Myrtle, aged 56, when they were stripping wallpaper in the dining room of their home in Sampford Arundel. Underneath six layers of wallpaper, they discovered a voluptuous naked Grecian lady reclining on a couch.

Eventually, all four walls and the ceiling were found to depict scenes of nude women frolicking in the company of Zeus, whilst Pan and an entourage of flute players looked on eagerly.

Mrs Pegram said: "We were absolutely amazed. On one wall there were two bearers with a fatted calf. By the fire there were dancing ladies in gowns. They are really quite erotic, though not obscene." They now intend to

protect the mural with glass. The mural, painted in oils, is dated 1807, but the only part of the faint signature that can be made out is the initials J.T.

James Miller, an expert on British paintings at Sotheby's, said yesterday that speculation about the artist's identity was premature. Such naked scenes were fashionable at the time.

Russell Lifford, Somerset's conservation officer, said that it was the first such mural that he knew of in the county, and that it was lucky to have escaped molestation by Victorian moralists.

Tom Mayberry, senior archivist at Somerset Records Services, emphasised that what was remarkable about the mural was that it was of the type normally discovered in a much grander country residence.

He established yesterday that the mural was commissioned by William Bellett, who owned 70 acres and died aged 80. The contents of his will suggest that he was a cultivated country gentleman of very eccentric tastes.

Abortion questions 'must end'

Medical schools have been asked to stop questioning candidates about their attitudes to abortion after a parliamentary enquiry confirmed that doctors who refused to perform abortions faced job discrimination (Sheila Gunn writes).

The Commons social services committee was told of Roman Catholic school leavers being rejected by one medical school after being asked whether their religion prevented them from recommending abortion for unmarried teenagers.

The committee was, however, divided over the workings of the "conscience clause" to the 1967 abortion act. Most of the committee wanted the right of doctors and nurses to opt out of abortion work to be extended to other staff.

More injured

Injuries to children on Britain's roads have increased by almost 3,000 a year, the Transport and Road Research Laboratory said yesterday. Almost 48,000 children were injured last year compared with 45,000 during the previous 12 months. The figures include 440 deaths. Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, said there must be a "massive effort" to improve Britain's record.

Duke's defence

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday answered criticism in a schools' inspectorate report that the awards scheme bearing his name which began in 1955 was outdated and attracted mainly white, middle class participants. He told a Northampton conference on the scheme that the evidence was that it worked well. "The only failure is in trying to get people from across the social spectrum to participate."

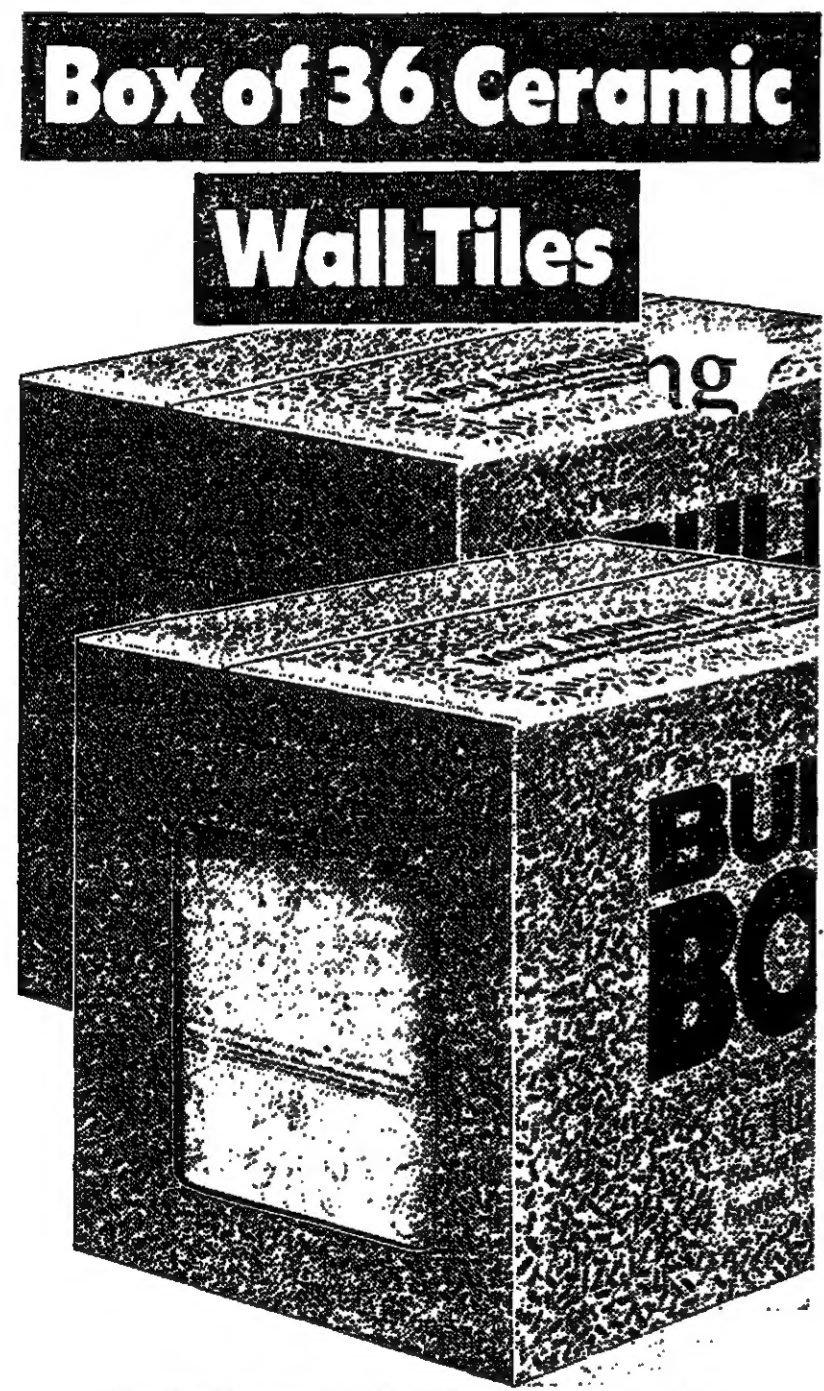
Licence hunt

A new fleet of hi-tech TV detector vans was launched yesterday. The vans can carry up to 12 inquiry officers and are able to home in on a working TV set within seconds, according to the Post Office. Investigators can tell immediately which channel is being watched or if a programme is being recorded on video. Last year over 320,000 licence dodgers were caught by the Post Office.

Limit extended

A television film company has bought *City Limits*, the left-wing London weekly listings magazine which last week went into receivership. Clark Productions, whose programmes include Channel 4's *Hard News* and ITV's *Moneyweek*, expects the magazine to become profitable within three to six months. Its circulation has dropped from 32,000 three years ago to below 15,000.

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Probation officers begin their annual conference today split on sentencing policy, reports Quentin Cowdry

CAROL Fisher represents what Home Office ministers like to characterise as the "sensible tendency" within the probation service. Almost painfully conscientious and reflective about her work, she believes that non-custodial court orders must be demanding and sometimes punitive to be effective.

"There have always been different strands among probation officers, but I definitely belong to the school which believes that penalties like probation and community service have to be reasonably tough," she says.

Miss Fisher, who has been in the service for ten years and is based in Chiswick, north London, draws the line, though, at the electronic tagging of offenders, which is one of the government's most controversial proposals. She is also deeply sceptical of ministerial promises that the planned "punishment in the community" regime will be adequately funded.

Her view that "if it isn't hurting, it isn't working" is bitterly opposed, however, by many of her colleagues, as the government will be uncomfortably reminded today, when delegates representing Britain's 7,000 rank-and-file probation officers begin their annual conference.

Had ministers not decided to spotlight sentencing policy, the argument about the extent to which probation officers should control offenders and attempt to change behaviour



Fisher: "Community service must be fairly tough"

could simply be seen by the public as one of those esoteric debates about role so beloved by the caring professions. The government's announcement that it wanted to make sentencing more consistent and that it wished to lock up fewer offenders has, however, lifted the argument near to the top of the political agenda.

Ministers have probably rightly judged that the public is not as punitive in its approach to punishment as

ried, for ideological and practical reasons, about the government's proposals, which are expected to be introduced in a criminal justice bill next month.

"Care orientated" officers who believe offenders should concentrate on befriending offenders and attending to their welfare needs, such as housing and employment, are unhappy with the punitive language in which the proposals have been couched. More significantly, however, they believe that the plan will backfire, leading to a rise, rather than a fall, in the prison population.

To overcome the traditional enthusiasm of British courts for custodial sentences, ministers plan to give courts a harder and more flexible range of non-custodial penalties. They would include a "combination order" of probation and community service; a curfew order enforced by electronic tagging; and probation orders that would spell out how offenders should be supervised.

Probation officers would have to draw up detailed reports in which they would recommend a range of non-custodial penalties for offenders covered by proposed new sentencing guidelines.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, says that ministers have failed to understand how chaotic and disorganised most offenders are.

"All we're going to see is more offenders failing to live up to the requirements of the new orders and being returned to the courts. Many of these people will then be chucked into jail." The association believes that breaches of probation orders will rise from 18 to 26 per cent.

John is 15

Warren tells of moment hooded man shot him

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FRANK Warren described yesterday how a hooded gunman pointed a pistol at him and fired into his chest from a range of six feet. The wounded boxing promoter then zig-zagged down a grassy bank to avoid any further shots until he collapsed.

Mr Warren told the Central Criminal Court that before being hit, he heard another shot but thought it was a car backfiring.

The former world boxing champion Terry Marsh denies attempting to murder Mr Warren, his manager, on November 30 last year. The court has been told Mr Marsh, aged 32, faced humiliation and financial ruin after their partnership had turned sour.

Mr Warren told the court that he arrived with his business partner John Botros at the Broadway Theatre in Barking shortly after 8pm on November 30. After getting out of his Bentley he heard a bang. "I thought it was a car backfiring. The noise startled me so I turned round and I saw a man standing there with a hood and a mask over his nose. He was probably six to eight feet away. He was just standing there in front of me. I looked at him and he had a gun in his hand."

Mr Warren looked at the gunman for about four seconds. "I tried to get out of the way. He was too far away to grab hold of. If I had tried to get closer I would have become a bigger target, so I tried to get behind the car. As I did so I heard another bang. I felt pain in the left hand side of my chest."

"I ran along the pavement and was aware I had been shot. There was a grassy slope I ran down. I started zig-zagging in case there was another shot so it would miss me. I lost my breath and sank down on one knee. I was conscious all the time. I heard John Botros's voice. I heard him shout 'What on earth are you doing?' He swore. Then a lady screamed. A car drew up and a man asked if I was OK. I said I thought I had been shot. It was a boxer I used to manage, Gary Nichols. While I was on the ground it was very painful and I started to

lose my breath which I thought was my lungs filling up with blood and I began to gurgle."

A doctor gave him first aid on the ground before a police van arrived and took him to hospital. He asked to be discharged on December 11.

Mr Warren, who said he was unable to identify the hooded gunman, earlier described his professional relationship with Mr Marsh, whom he spotted as an amateur boxer for the Royal Marines in the late 70s. Mr Warren realised his potential and persuaded him to sign a professional contract on September 27, 1984. "Business relations until he won the world title were OK. We were not great friends but personal relations were also OK."

After the boxer won the world light-welterweight championship in 1987, Mr Warren negotiated with him to appear as a commentator on the boxing programme *Seconds Out*, for which Mr Marsh was paid £500 for each of three appearances. But after Mr Marsh disclosed in *The Sun* newspaper that he was suffering from epilepsy, Mr Warren arranged for the television contract to be withdrawn.

Mr Warren said the epilepsy story appeared in *The Sun* in September, 1987, the day after Mr Marsh signed a contract to defend his title. It could be inferred from the report that Mr Warren knew about his condition before allowing his fighter to sign for the championship contest. The promoter denied that, sued *The Sun* for libel and received £40,000 in an out-of-court settlement and an apology.

On January 25 last year, Mr Marsh told the television programme *Midweek Sport Special* that he had told everyone who needed to know about his epilepsy. Mr Warren then issued a writ for libel against the fighter. He said that the American promoters of the title fight, against the co-incidentally named Frankie Warren, could have sued him for £125,000 if the contract had been broken as a result of Mr Marsh's condition. The case continues today.



Reminded: Tony Wilbraham and his wife Maureen (right) are collected by their daughter, Jane, and granddaughter, Yasmin, at Gatwick airport

Hostages taste liberty and a square meal

By RAY CLANCY AND BILL FROST

THE British hostages freed from Iraq were last night planning celebration parties, getting used to being in their own homes and sorting out problems that have mounted up during their captivity.

Many spent their first day of freedom being reunited with relatives, having their first decent meal for several weeks and learning to live away from the fear of war.

James Ure, aged 58, shouted "Halalujah!" as he pushed open the glass swing doors of the arrival suite and took centre-stage before a blaze of television lights at Gatwick airport early yesterday morning. "This is bloody magic, being home, it's just bloody magic. What I need now is a beer and some time with my wife and five children," he said. Mr Ure, a

former executive chef with Iraqi Airlines, seemed to have made an instant psychological transition from prisoner to free man. Many of the others who had travelled with him aboard the Virgin Airlines jumbo jet appeared bemused, distracted, and hollow-eyed with exhaustion.

Over the next few days, all 33 will be contacted by the Gulf Support Group, who will offer them advice and counselling. A group spokesman said: "Every hostage is reacting in a different way. Many will find it difficult to come to terms with leaving others behind; fellow hostages who perhaps became their friends."

Some of the hostages said that they had not eaten properly and others talked about the stress they suffered, as part of a human shield for a war that could erupt at any moment.

Ronald Eccles, aged 42, one of the released hostages and director of the Common Cold and Nasal Research Centre at University College, Cardiff, said that some of those left behind had health problems because of the stress. "People have been developing heart trouble and diabetes. If they had any medical problems in the past, they are flaring up."

Maureen Wilbraham who had stayed behind with her husband Tony, who has lung cancer, returned to their home in Blackpool and spoke about how they had to tell the Iraqis that he was dying. Mr Wilbraham had been diagnosed as having cancer before he went to Kuwait to work on a motorway construction project but had managed to convince himself he would be cured.

"When I had the treatment in this

country I had to believe I was cured. I had been told I was going to live through it. But in Iraq things were desperate. I had to make the big mental leap from convincing myself I was cured to admitting I was dying. I had to shout out loudly that I had cancer, that I was dying," he said.

The couple now face financial problems. Their salaries and savings were seized when the Iraqis invaded Kuwait. "We stand very little chance of ever seeing our money again. We have lost thousands of pounds," Mrs Wilbraham said.

Jim Thomson, who arrived home in Horndean, Hampshire, yesterday said that his diet had been only a bowl of rice, stale bread and a boiled egg a day. Mr Thomson, aged 50, an oil company engineer was allowed home because of a heart condition.

Spread of Aids 'to alter course'

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HETEROSEXUALS with Aids may outnumber homosexual sufferers of the disease in Britain within the next five years, scientific advisers to the government said yesterday.

The number of men and women developing the disease from heterosexual contact is likely to double each year for several years, while the homosexual epidemic appears to have reached its peak.

The predictions were made by Sir David Cox, chairman of a health department working group that produced detailed forecasts two years ago, and Roy Anderson, professor of pure and applied biology at Imperial College, London. They were speaking at a meeting held in Westminster by the all-party parliamentary group on Aids.

"The number of heterosexual Aids cases has doubled in Britain in the last year, and in the absence of a big medical advance it seems likely that it will continue to double every year for a while," Sir David said.

Professor Anderson said he expected heterosexual cases to double every year for at least the next three years. "If we are correct, Aids among heterosexuals will begin catching up with cases among homosexuals and intravenous drug abusers within three or four years. I suspect it will not be until this happens... that there will be the beginnings of changes in behaviour that will influence the course of the epidemic."

According to health department figures, the number of heterosexually acquired Aids cases doubled in the past year to a current total of 240.

Code to defeat bogus callers

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

A CAMPAIGN by the Association of British Insurers to defeat bogus callers was launched by David Waddington, the home secretary, yesterday.

The association will give elderly people stickers to put on the inside of their doors, on which they should write their gas and electricity reference numbers. They can then check up on anyone who calls at their home claiming to be a representative of one of those services. Any such caller who does not have the customer's reference number should not be allowed in.

One million leaflets giving advice on how to identify bogus callers have been printed, and 12,000 posters will publicise the "knock code", which gives a series of instructions, with the first letter of each making up part of the word "knock". It says:

- ☐ know who callers are;
 - ☐ never allow entry without identification;
 - ☐ open the door only when satisfied that the caller is genuine;
 - ☐ call the police if suspicious, and;
 - ☐ keep an eye on any caller while he or she is in the house.
- Mr Waddington said: "Most people who come to your door are, of course, genuine, but there are far too many heart-breaking stories of doorstep callers tricking their victims into parting with cash or letting them into their homes and leaving with stolen cash and valuables. I am grateful to the Association of British Insurers for mounting this latest crime prevention campaign, and I urge everyone, particularly the elderly, to get hold of a copy of the "knock code" from the ABI and to follow the sound practical advice given in the leaflet."

Award for museums campaign

THE Times has won the best campaign sponsorship of 1989 award for its work with the Museums Year campaign, during which it promoted public use of Britain's art galleries and museums.

A museums passport and guidebook were produced as part of the campaign launched to celebrate the centenary of the Museums Association, which represents more than 2,000 museums and galleries in the UK. The award was made by the magazine *PR Week*.

Peter Jackson, consultant editor to *Campaign* magazine and one of the judges, said: "This is a fine example of applying an imaginative approach to not the most obviously stimulating of briefs."

Merger suspended

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to merge two of the country's most prestigious music colleges have been withdrawn temporarily to give them the opportunity to work together voluntarily.

Celebrities from the world of classical music came out in force this summer to oppose plans from a committee chaired by Lord Gowrie, the former arts minister, to merge the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music. The polytechnics and colleges funding council said that continued competition would reduce the money available to both institutions.

Lord Gowrie, who conceded that a merger would work only if both parties were

willing partners, wanted a federation to lead to amalgamation within three years. After consultation on Lord Gowrie's report, however, the council announced yesterday that the colleges had been offered a special funding arrangement on condition that they agreed to deepen and broaden collaboration.

The colleges, which have a history of rivalry, plan to harmonise entry and exit qualifications and to begin joint teaching of students in vocal music and other areas. They have agreed to make no comment on the proposals although the royal academy is in favour of merger and the royal college opposed.

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THE TIMES on Saturday

THE TIMES

Our magazine for readers in their early teens finds out what makes Superman fly (and other tricks of the special effects department), and offers the chance to win £2,000 worth of clothes

Saturday Review

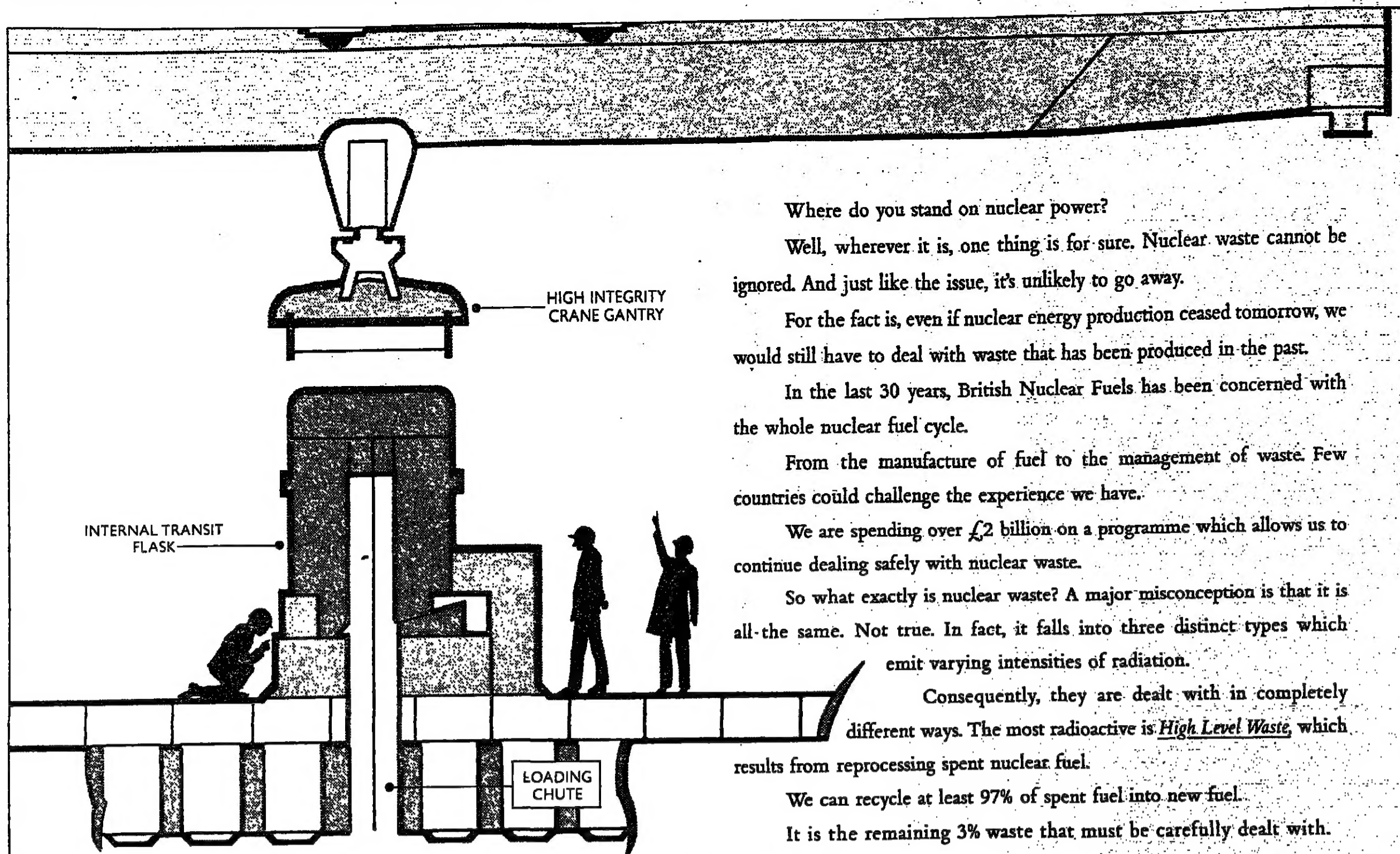
The man who broke free

Professor Stephen Hawking, Britain's most famous scientist, is wheelchair bound, but the appliance of his science is untrammelled by any physical limitation

Like putty in his hands

Grindling Gibbons sculpted wood as if it were dough. Now at last comes a chance to display some of his greatest work in a single exhibition

The Times on Saturday: to be sure of your copy, order it today



Where do you stand on nuclear power?

Well, wherever it is, one thing is for sure. Nuclear waste cannot be ignored. And just like the issue, it's unlikely to go away.

For the fact is, even if nuclear energy production ceased tomorrow, we would still have to deal with waste that has been produced in the past.

In the last 30 years, British Nuclear Fuels has been concerned with the whole nuclear fuel cycle.

From the manufacture of fuel to the management of waste. Few countries could challenge the experience we have.

We are spending over £2 billion on a programme which allows us to continue dealing safely with nuclear waste.

So what exactly is nuclear waste? A major misconception is that it is all the same. Not true. In fact, it falls into three distinct types which emit varying intensities of radiation.

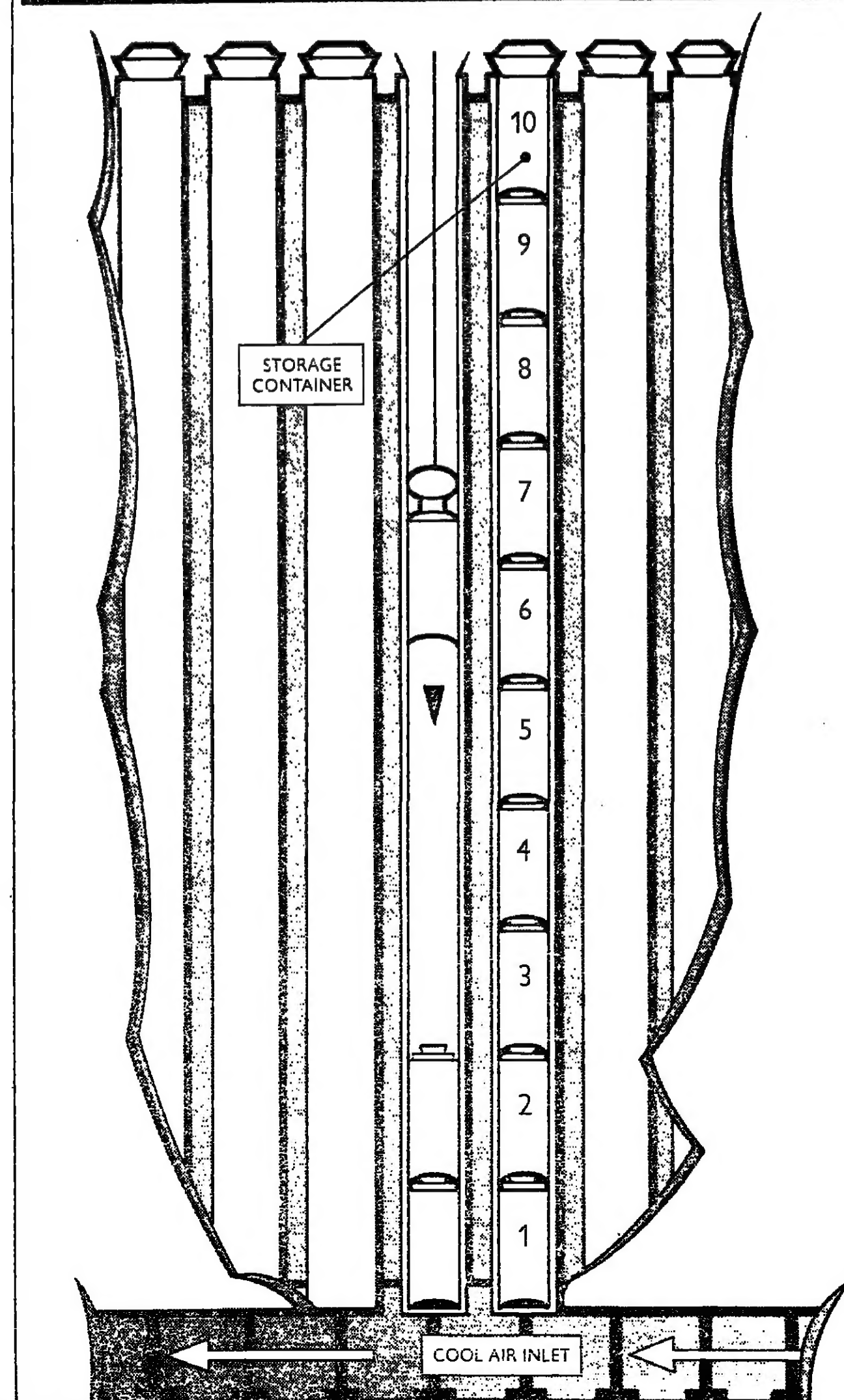
Consequently, they are dealt with in completely different ways. The most radioactive is High Level Waste, which results from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel.

We can recycle at least 97% of spent fuel into new fuel.

It is the remaining 3% waste that must be carefully dealt with.

**NUCLEAR WASTE
CAN BE
CONTAINED.**

**THE ISSUE
CANNOT.**



At present, high level waste is stored as a liquid inside double-walled, cooled stainless steel tanks enclosed in thick concrete walls.

However, we have brought into operation a process called 'vitrification', in which liquid waste is converted into glass and sealed inside stainless steel containers to be kept safe for the indefinite future.

This method reduces the waste to 1/3 of its original volume.

Or, to look at it another way, all the high level waste produced at Sellafield in the last 30 years could be contained in just 4 double-decker buses.

A far less radioactive type of nuclear waste, known as Intermediate Level Waste, occurs when the nuclear fuel rods are stripped in the first mechanical stage of reprocessing.

The scrap metal, sludge, and residues that are involved in this operation are sealed in cement inside steel drums, and stored in our special encapsulation plant until a suitable long-term home has been found.

At the moment, sites at Sellafield and at Dounreay in Scotland are under scrutiny from geologists to see whether either is suitable for a deep underground repository.

The least radioactive waste of all is Low Level Waste, such as paper towels, gloves, protective clothing and laboratory equipment which not only come from the nuclear industry but from hospitals, research laboratories and other industries where radioactive materials are handled.

Despite the fact that radiation from low level waste is negligible, we take no chances.

At Drigg in Cumbria, we've built and use a concrete vault the size of 12 football pitches, and we are developing a method of compacting this type of waste, which means Drigg won't be full until well into the 21st Century.

If you'd like to know more about the way we manage nuclear waste write to Information Services, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AS for our nuclear waste brochure, or our video.

Better still why not come and visit us at the Sellafield Visitors Centre. Because, anything you want to know about waste management is contained within it.

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS
Managing waste at Sellafield.

السلامة في العمل

Judge tells lawyers to shape up on appeal cases

LAWYERS were attacked by one of the country's top judges yesterday when they were urged to improve their handling of appeal cases.

Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said in his annual review of work in the Court of Appeal that some lawyers either failed to understand the appeal process or were misusing it, accusing them of wrongly regarding the court as providing a second bite at the legal cherry.

In many cases, Lord Donaldson said, lawyers planning to appeal forgot to apply for a stay of execution of the order in the lower court. If that was

not done the decision being challenged could become effective before the appeal was made.

Some members of the legal profession also failed to understand what was required of them when filing a notice of appeal while others failed to appreciate that it was a priority to carry on preparing an appeal once the wheels for it had been set in motion.

Simple instructions explaining the documentation necessary for an appeal were sometimes not complied with, he said in his report, *The birth, life and death of an appeal*. Many appellants and their advisers appeared unable to read, or at least to understand, the simple instructions sent to them telling them what documentation was required for an appeal and when it was required.

"Many appellants, and this is not confined to litigants in person, appear to put off until the day after tomorrow what they should have done the day before yesterday," he said.

In spite of such problems the Court of Appeal was handling a huge workload and when necessary the courts could move at high speed. He cited a recent case when a High Court judge sat until 11pm on a Friday night to finish a case involving a teenager whose parents, because of their religious beliefs, refused to allow him to have a blood transfusion.

Appeal judges were waiting to hear an appeal immediately after the High Court hearing and had been prepared to sit into the early hours of Saturday morning. In the end that was unnecessary.

Justice at such speed was possible but could only be achieved by a high degree of informal co-operation between the trial court, lawyers, judges and court staff, Lord Donaldson added.

Almost half of all newly qualified solicitors in England and Wales are women, according to a survey published today.

Some 47 per cent of the 3,729 admissions to the solicitors' roll during 1989-90 were women, the Law Society report shows. They now made up 23 per cent of the 54,734 solicitors that hold practising certificates.

Law report, page 32

Hospices 'must raise profile'

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

HOSPICES will need to market their services aggressively under the health service reforms to ensure both state and voluntary funding, Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff said yesterday.

Addressing a conference held by the Royal College of Nursing in London, the baroness said that hospices should devise a set of standards that could be negotiated with health authorities when contracts are drawn up under an internal market.

Although it was difficult to measure outcomes in the care of the terminally ill, hospices should know what makes a "good death" and be able to sell that package to the appropriate authority. "The hospice sector will have to get in and make bids. We have to be able to say we offer something that in terms of quality is way beyond what one can get in other services."

The baroness, a cross-bencher who has consistently lobbied for more resources for the terminally ill, said that hospices would have to compete with other establishments offering care for the terminally ill such as nursing homes and hospitals. Health authorities would be looking for the best buy.

Pollution warnings 'ignore guidelines'

By NICHOLAS WATT

WARNINGS about air pollution were included in weather forecasts for the first time yesterday, but the government was criticised last night for ignoring World Health Organisation guidelines in the new system.

Air quality is to be designated very good, good, poor or very poor according to the levels of car and industrial fumes in the air. A spokeswoman for Friends of the Earth, the environmental pressure group, said that, at the "good" level, air quality would exceed WHO guidelines, and 20 per cent of the population would be at risk.

David Trippier, the environment minister, said at yesterday's launch, however, that a medical advisory group had been appointed to advise the government next spring about the level at which low ozone affected sensitive people.

He rejected suggestions that the group's report would be too late, and pointed out that, while there had been a problem with low levels of ozone in London this summer, it could not be repeated in winter. Mr Trippier said it would be

"scaremongering" to warn people not to take exercise.

The minister said he was particularly sensitive to the problems of air pollution, as his son aged nine and father aged 81 suffered from asthma. Britain's air quality was generally good, he added, and the health department said that air pollution in this country was unlikely to threaten health.

Much of the solution lay in controlling emissions from cars, Mr Trippier said, and the government was committed to EC legislation that would cause all cars to be fitted with catalytic converters by 1993.

The air quality information will come from ten air sensors around the country. FOE said, however, that a two-tier pollution map of Britain would be created, and if people received health warnings it would be because they lived where data was collected.

Green growth is a myth and Mrs Thatcher has invented a new vocabulary to pretend an interest in the environment, David Gies, director of Friends of the Earth, told an environmental conference.

City colleges 'have raised standards'

By CRAIG SETON

CITY technology colleges have helped to promote competition and raise standards, John MacGregor, the education secretary, said yesterday.

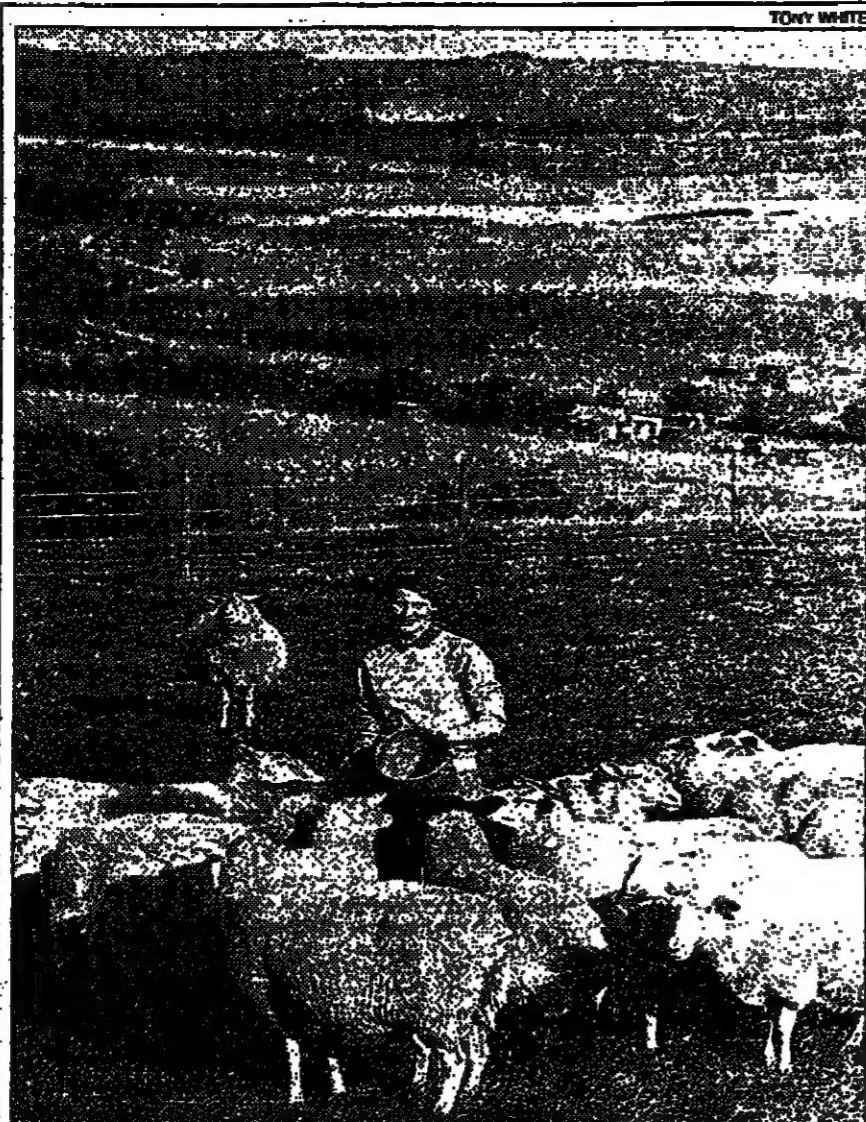
Mr MacGregor defended government policy to set up 20 colleges and denied claims by Labour that the colleges were expensive white elephants that had failed to attract the level of industrial sponsorship for which the government had hoped.

Mr MacGregor, who was opening a building for sixth formers at Kingshurst city technology college in Solihull, West Midlands, the first building of its kind, said that the 20 per cent contribution from industry towards funding the colleges was in line with what the government had sought. He said that the government

was on target to establish 20 colleges, 14 of which were opened or planned.

Mr MacGregor said that the colleges were proving that employers wanted to employ young people whose education included substantial exposure to modern technology and the best possible command of literacy, numeracy and analytical ability. They had introduced flexibility and increased parental choice in the state education system.

Kingshurst was opened in 1988 and since then has accepted 189 pupils at the age of 11 each year. The college is now taking 150 direct entrants at 16-plus for vocationally-orientated qualifications and an international baccalaureate. Its main sponsor is Hanson Industries.



Joanne Hale, aged 25, of Wiltshire, the VentureCash scheme Young Business Person of the Year, will use the £2,500 prize to produce cheese from her dairy sheep

Farmers demand action over plight of agriculture

The National Farmers' Union says that the rural economy is under threat. John Young reports

ABOUT 1,500 farmers are expected to gather at Central Hall, Westminster, today to demand action to halt the deepening recession in agriculture. According to the National Farmers' Union, which has called the meeting, the plight of the farming industry poses a threat not only to the entire rural economy but to the countryside itself.

Farmers have cried wolf so often that others can be excused a certain scepticism, but this time claims of a crisis are hard to refute. NFU estimates, based on government statistics, are that farm incomes have declined by 9 per cent a year in real terms since the early 1980s. Earnings from lowland livestock and cereal farms were 85 per cent lower in 1989-90 than in 1982-83. About 60,000 jobs have been lost in the past decade and annual investment in fixed capital is barely half what it was six years ago.

As if that were not enough, the European Commission is proposing a 30 per cent cut in farm support by 1996 to prevent the collapse of the current round of negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Britain has backed the commission but most other EC members refuse to consider a move that would, they say, bankrupt millions of small farmers.

The call for the ending of all

farm subsidies has been led by the Cairns group, which includes Australia, New Zealand, and several countries in Latin America and southeast Asia. They argue that they are efficient low-cost producers, rely on free access to world markets and in most cases cannot afford to subsidise their farmers. The most vociferous opponent of the EC common agricultural policy, however, is the United States, which is demanding a 75 per cent cut in support over the next 10 years.

To free market enthusiasts the Cairns argument is irresistible. Remove all subsidies, they say, and everyone will be able to buy food in an openly competitive world market. From a British point of view a free market would almost certainly create further balance of trade difficulties, but much more important are the social and environmental drawbacks.

For nearly a century between the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 and the start of the Second World War British farming languished and much

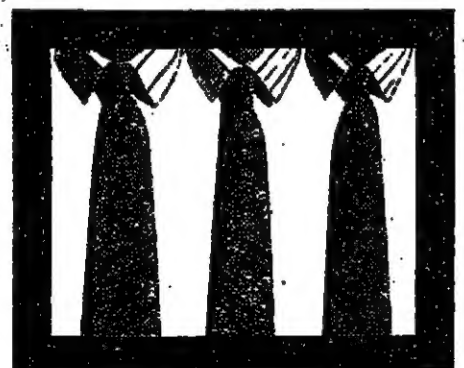
of the countryside was derelict. Europe learnt a painful lesson during the war years but its drive for self-sufficiency had worrying side-effects: despoliation of much of the countryside, big increases in the use of chemicals, and "mountains" of unwanted produce.

With the mountains once again on the increase, the NFU president, Sir Simon Gourlay, recognises that agricultural expenditure must be curbed, but he insists that a straight price cut is too blunt a weapon and will destroy thousands of family farms. Instead he favours supply management, namely the control of production by a system of quotas; the encouragement of non-intensive livestock systems; and compelling all farmers to leave a proportion of land uncultivated and ungrazed.

The last of these will please no one. For farmers neglected land is a wasting asset, and it offers no benefits for the environment. Today's meeting will be long on rhetoric but will not offer any solutions.

Unemployment in the 27 designated rural development areas and two coalfield closure areas in England fell by nearly 8 per cent from 49,473 to 45,612 between April and July this year. This brought the overall rate down to 3.8 per cent compared with a national average of 5.2 per cent.

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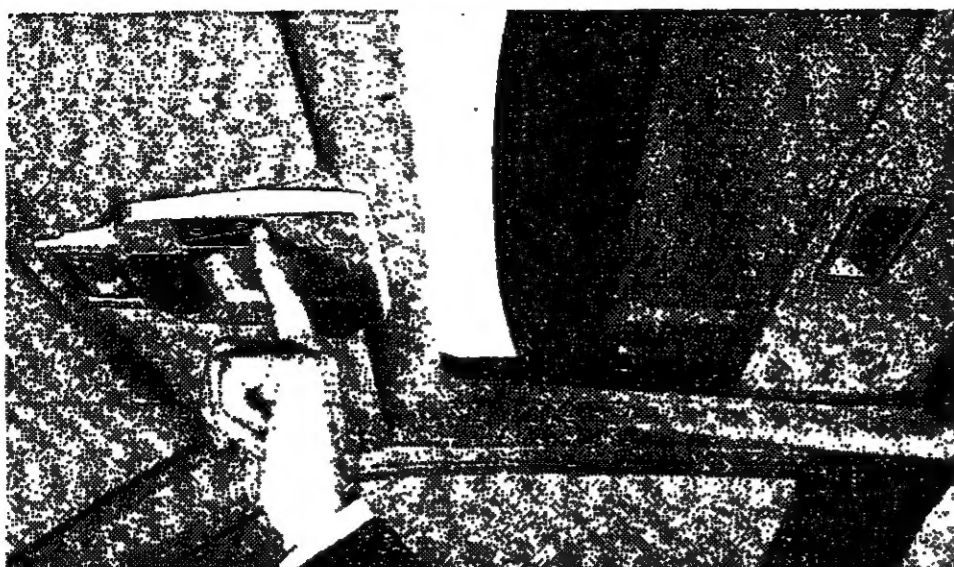
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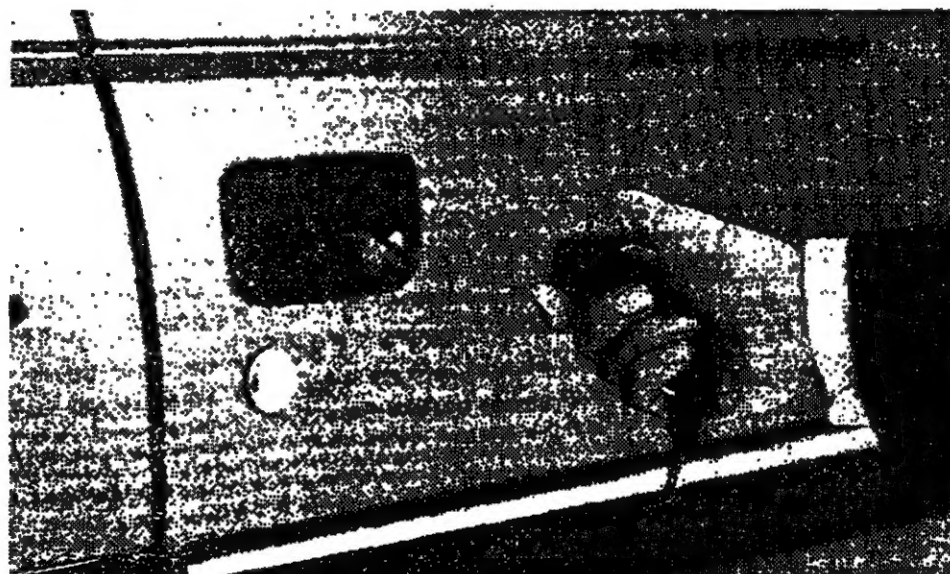


ELECTRIC SUNROOF



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REMOTE CONTROL CENTRAL LOCKING.

There's a list of over 40 refinements on the new Peugeot 405 GL 1.6 '91. Little touches designed to make the car even better. Like the way the exhaust system has been tuned to the point where you can hardly hear it. But let's look at the refinements you can see. The ones that help put the GL 1.6 way ahead of its nearest rivals. The rest will come as a pleasant surprise, just like the price - only £10,610†

There's no missing the electric front windows, especially as the glass throughout has been discreetly tinted to make driving more relaxing on the eyes.

Pointing out the electric sunroof is a bit of a cheat. You see it's not new, the Peugeot 405 GL 1.6 has had one ever since we up-graded it last year, while its rival Cavalier and Sierra still have the old wind-up variety.

Another thing that's hardly new and the rivals certainly don't have is the famous Peugeot ride and handling. Yet, on the new '91 model even the drive has been improved. Of those 40 refinements, no less than 24 are to be found in the passenger compartment. Little changes to the acoustics, the seats, the fascia that altogether make travelling in the new 405 even more relaxing, even more comfortable.

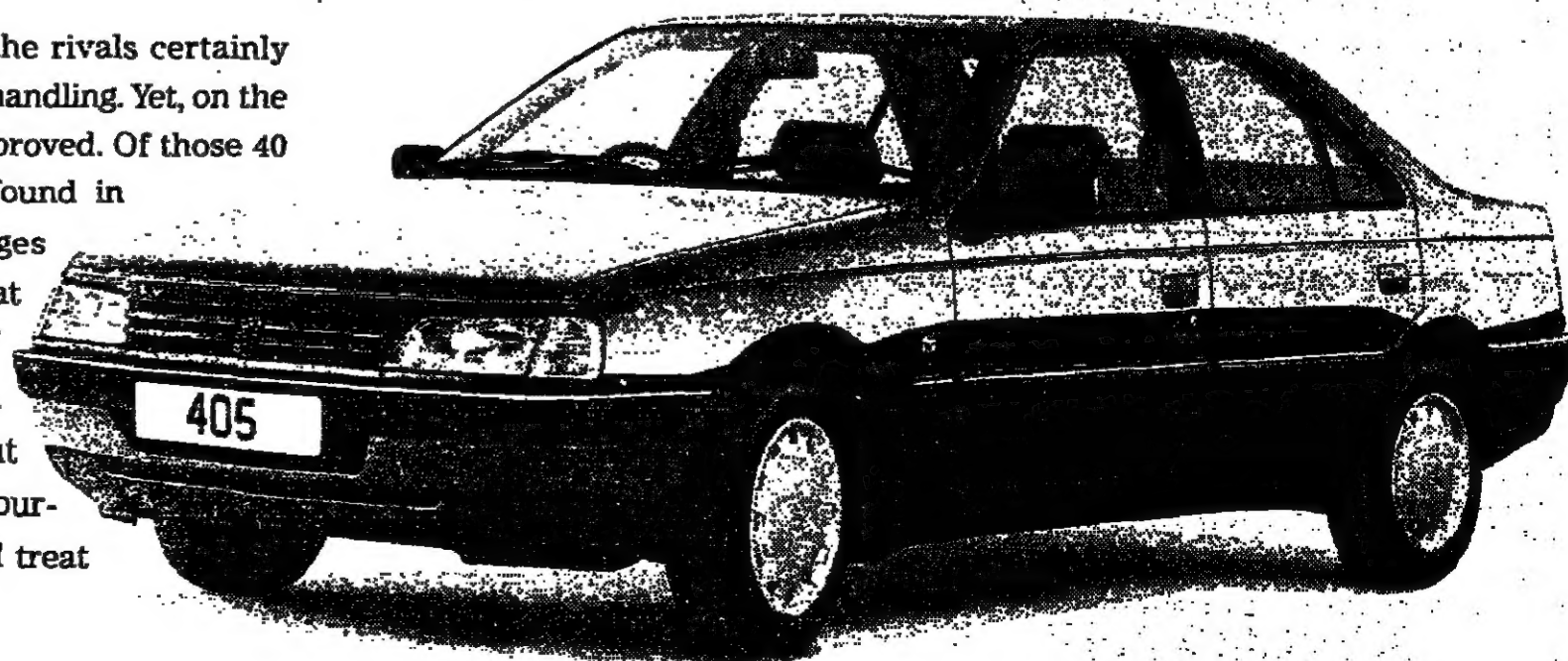
But there's only one way to find out exactly what we mean and that's to treat yourself to a test drive. And when you do we'll treat

you to one of our free Classic Collection videos. There are over 100 titles to choose from - everything from Casablanca to Yellow Submarine.

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Finally, the last feature we'd like to point out is likely to be the first one to impress you - remote control central locking at the touch of a button.

It's yet another thumbs down for the competition.



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†PRICE QUOTED INCLUDES VAT AND CAR TAX, BUT EXCLUDES DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND ROAD TAX.

tail in 120

Parkinson blames 'myopic' planners for traffic chaos

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MYOPIC new town planning is one of the root causes of congestion on the road and rail networks, Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, said yesterday.

The post-war new town planners had failed to predict correctly, the demand for transport, which is largely responsible for the transport difficulties confronting London and the South-East, Mr Parkinson said.

Addressing the Freight Transport Association's annual conference in London, Mr Parkinson defended the government's opposition to integrated transport planning, saying the policy had proved to be an unmitigated failure in the past.

Mr Parkinson added: "Why have we problems in London now? Because the planners said: 'We will develop peripheral towns like Basingstoke, Hemel Hempstead, Milton Keynes, and Stevenage, and everyone will go and live there so there is no need for improving road and rail links into London.'"

That belief could not have been more wrong, he said.

Defending the government's "balanced approach" to transport, Mr Parkinson said an integrated transport policy would lead to planners deciding how many people should be allowed to use what form of transport. "Our planners have a record of unmitigated failure in making that kind of decision," he said.

Trying to put that problem

right is a huge difficulty for us now. The government had embarked on a massive programme of investment in rail and road infrastructure that would enable people to make their own travel choices.

The idea that the planners were sensible and the people were sensible was not borne out by the evidence, he said. Pointing to the 11 per cent reduction in commuting into London by car over the past five years, combined with the 25 per cent increase in commuters on Network South-East, Mr Parkinson said: "Once people are provided with good alternatives they will make sensible choices."

He said he was originally attracted to the idea of road pricing, a method of charging motorists for using busy roads in peak periods. But the logistics and start-up costs meant it was not an easy solution to London's traffic congestion.

Defending the government's record on the environment, Mr Parkinson said not enough recognition had been given to the town and village by-pass programme.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, accused Mr Parkinson of "blindly attacking the messenger and ignoring the message".

Mr Prescott said: "It was the planners who warned us in the 1960s that the phenomenal growth in cars would have disastrous consequences for our cities. The politicians ignored that message then,

and Mr Parkinson is ignoring it now, laying the groundwork for even greater problems in the 21st century."

London Underground was yesterday accused of breaching its equality policy and ignoring staff from ethnic minorities in a management shake-up after the King's Cross disaster.

A report by the Commission for Racial Equality, published yesterday, found that when London Underground Ltd created 250 middle-management jobs after the fire, 29 per cent of applications were from ethnic minority staff but only 11 per cent were successful.

Commenting on the report, Joe Abrams, deputy chair of the CRE, said: "Over 20,000 people work for LUL and about 28 per cent of them are from the ethnic minorities. Most were recruited way back in the early 1950s, but they still remain disproportionately concentrated in the lower grades."

London Underground said: "The criticisms in the report are historical and relate to a period of change in the culture of London Underground."



Designer kiss: Yves Saint Laurent greeting a model wearing a wedding dress at the end of his 1991 spring-summer ready-to-wear fashion show in Paris yesterday

Crowd rises for show of emotion

By LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR

THE fashion crowd rose to applaud Yves Saint Laurent at the end of his lengthy show in Paris yesterday.

A standing ovation at a Saint Laurent fashion show, however, does not necessarily mean that it has been an outstanding collection. He did show wonderful clothes and staged a colourful finale of harem pants, beaded bustiers and embroidered boleros inspired by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, but the emotional applause was more in relief that the man himself had appeared to take his bow.

Six months ago he was taken to hospital a few days before his show suffering from nervous exhaustion. With an annual group turnover of \$611 million and predictions of a \$1 billion business by 1998, it was only natural that people should ask how long could he go on. In fact he was back at work by May and prepared the couture collection that was shown in Paris in July.

This season a blackamoor print with dervish dancers in a pattern mixed with colourful stripes was used in berber pants, bare-midriff tops and embroideries. It is a theme that he has used many times before but which looks no less effective or contemporary.

The show opened in an unfocused way with many Saint Laurent favourites paraded with long and short

skirts, as well as trousers buttoned to the ankle. Then the show flourished with a loose jellaba dress worn with a tall, tasseled fez. Loose, collarless three-quarter length coats over short skirts or trousers looked fresh in his new mix of colours: tobacco with pale blue and raspberry pink, and saffron lined in orange over mustard.

The lace that Saint Laurent worked with twice in his couture collections reappeared in this ready-to-wear line. White crunchy lace was tailored into a blazer and worn over a sheer white lace cami-sole. A series of black lace and silk lingerie dresses is an idea seen elsewhere in Paris but which Saint Laurent does best. Baby doll smocks over deep bands of white lace, worn strapless, off-the-shoulder or in a one-shouldered line, were less successful.

At this point he revved up the colour, rustling scarlet lace into flouncy rumba dresses. He even re-created the show-stopper from the last couture collection, a sizzling long slink of black lace slit up one side and held together with satin bows. For summer it is short, in scarlet, black, and white lace with scarlet bows.

It was a polished, if familiar, exercise from the Saint Laurent repertoire and one it is hoped that he will be able to repeat for many years to come.

Government to ring changes for phone duopoly

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

RADIO announcements of cut-price telephone calls between cities and hour-long discounts at slack times could become commonplace in a liberalised telecommunications market, industry experts said yesterday.

Facsimile machines, video-phones and other equipment could become common in households as competition drives prices down and newly licensed telephone companies tempt subscribers with attractive sales packages.

About 15 per cent of households do not have a telephone, according to government figures. Companies seeking to compete with British Telecom and Mercury Communications say that these homes might find they can soon afford a telephone as rentals and installation fees fall sharply.

Parts of the country without cable television may also soon be able to dial television channels on the telephone. British Telecom could be allowed to supply these services to such areas sooner than expected to compensate for increased competition.

These are some of the outcomes that might emerge after a government review of the industry. Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, is expected to issue a consultative document in the next few days with a pronouncement in the new year.

At issue is the six-year duopoly of British Telecom and Mercury with which companies owning or in the process of building networks are clamouring to compete. They include British Rail, the Post Office, British Waterways and the country's 135 cable television companies. A free-for-all could have a damaging effect on the economy and

services whereas doing nothing would perpetuate the status quo which, consumer groups say, has done little for competition at the local and residential level.

Mr Lilley wants to see more competition in spite of the government's 48.7 per cent shareholding in British Telecom, worth £8 billion. The government is also aware that American cable and media interests are willing to invest £5 billion in the British cable industry. The cable companies, are keen to offer local telephone services but adamant competition rules are relaxed.

At present, cable companies have to deal with one of the two duopoly companies, in practice Mercury. This is making call charges more expensive than necessary and means that cable companies have to reveal business plans to a competitor. Most experts agree that the government will not license a third national operator. Instead the outcome of the review may conclude that several private trunk telephone operators are licensed with which cable companies can freely connect.

Crucial to the government's decision is likely to be a license applicant's experience at running a telecommunications network. One of the favourites is British Rail's new telecom subsidiary, BRT, which has a big telecommunications network already in place. Local cable companies connected to these networks could then switch calls through Mercury's lines in the morning, BRT's in the afternoon and another in the evening depending on which had the cheapest rates.

More competition, page 29
Comment, page 31

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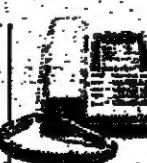
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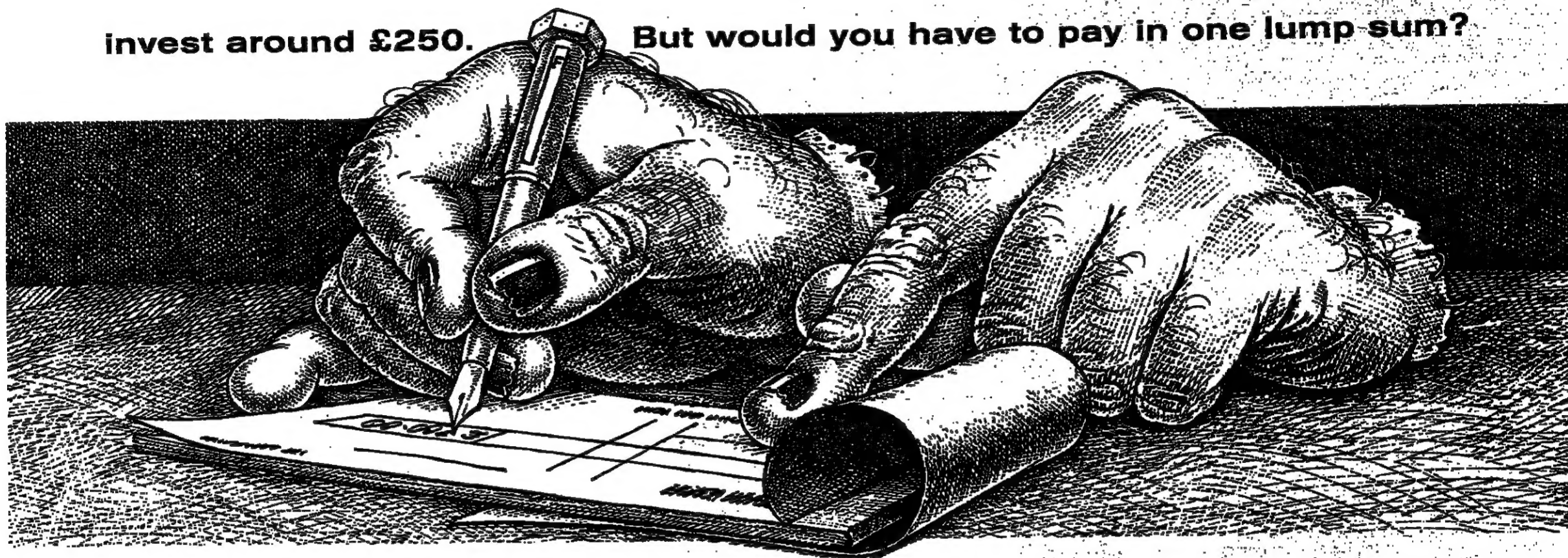
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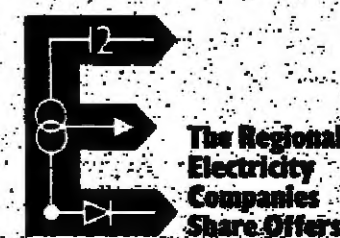
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Daytime cure for health service delays

Increasing day surgery could help to cut hospital waiting lists, which are at a peak, Jill Sherman reports

HOSPITAL waiting lists could be cut by a third if more operations were carried out as day surgery, according to a report published today by the Audit Commission.

About 300,000 more patients could be treated at no extra cost if routine procedures such as hernias, varicose veins and cataracts were done as day cases, rather than in-patient operations, the commission says.

Individual audits will now be carried out in every district in England and Wales to assess performance. Where this is poor, targets for expanding day surgery will be agreed with managers and doctors.

As part of its first study into the health service, the commission looked at 20 common procedures that could all be performed on a day basis, including the removal of breast lumps, circumcision and pregnancy termination. The 20 operations account for 30 per cent of all surgical procedures. In 1985, 794,000 operations were carried out as day cases.

The commission concluded that if all 192 health authorities did as much day surgery as the top 25 per cent of districts, £31 million would be saved in a year.

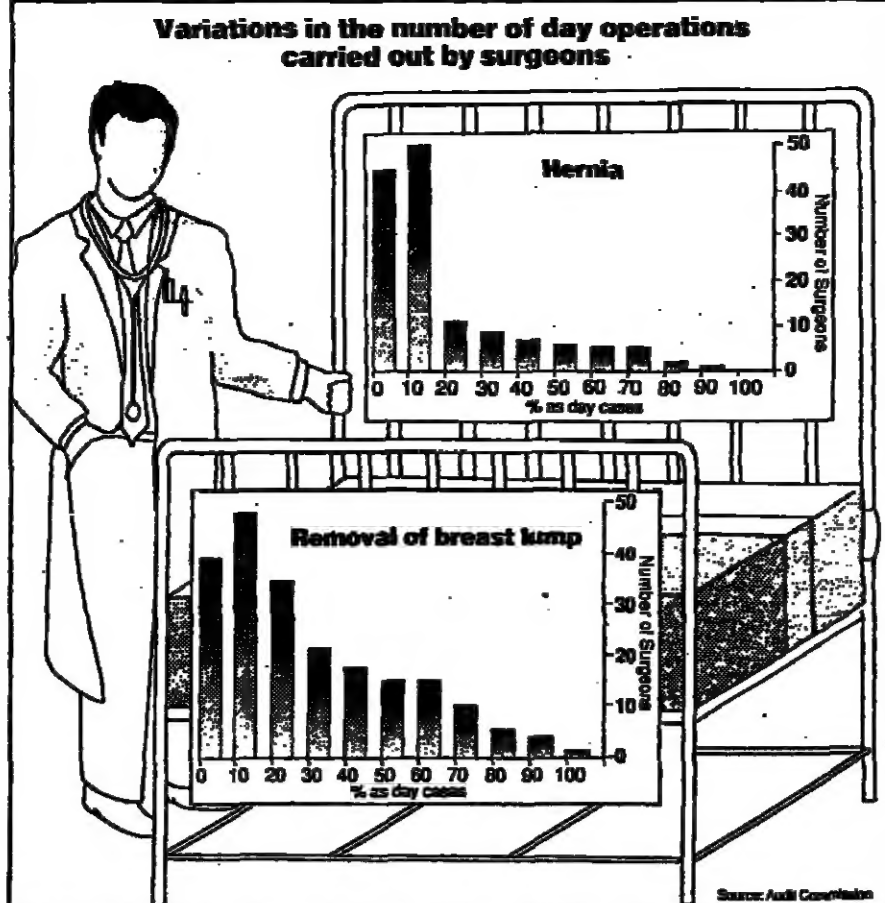
This would then pay for a further 300,000 day-case operations.

Most of the money would be saved through nursing costs, estimated at £118 per in-patient operation for a four-day stay, against £3 for a day-surgery case. With other overheads the report estimates that day surgery is 30 per cent cheaper.

Howard Davies, the commission controller, said that with waiting lists standing at a high of 960,000, managers and surgeons should have an incentive to change existing practices to try to reduce the number of people waiting. The NHS management board has already said that both managers and authorities would be penalised financially if they failed to meet waiting list targets.

Studies from the Royal College of Surgeons had argued that day surgery was as good if not better than in-patient treatment and that re-admission rates were lower. There was also no evidence that patients undergoing day surgery needed more community support.

Patients were often treated sooner because more surgery could be done for the same money and many people preferred to spend less time



away from home. "There is significant scope for more effective use of resources. Day surgery is recognised by surgeons to be safe and patients like it."

"If more operations were done in this way, waiting lists

could be quickly brought down with little or no additional expenditure," Mr Davies said. He suggested that under health service reforms, which are to be implemented next April, managers should specify that a percentage of

operations should be carried out as day cases in the contracts they draw up with hospitals.

Hospitals with day units could compete for business as they would be able to offer lower treatment costs. The

commission's report says that health authorities are, on average, carrying out between 200 and 250 day cases per bed per year when this could be as high as 346.

Managers were hesitant to provide day-care units and designated wards because they feared that any move towards day surgery would lead to additional patients being treated, rather than being used as a more efficient substitute for in-patients, "thereby posing a threat to their cash-limited budgets".

Although most districts had at least one day-surgery unit they were often poorly managed with some units being used for procedures that could be done in out-patient departments.

Many surgeons and anaesthetists were reluctant to switch to day surgery because they preferred traditional approaches, lacked the skills or knowledge of new quicker techniques, believed that patients preferred to stay in hospital, or feared that the quality of care would be inferior, the report says.

The commission recommends that specialist day-case units, headed by clinical directors, should be provided in all districts and calls on managers and doctors to review the type of operations that could be day cases.

A short cut to better services: Day surgery in England and Wales. (Stationery Office; £8.50)

Style changed by modern methods

By LIN JENKINS

THE experience of hospital and surgery has changed beyond recognition for Brendan Devlin, a general surgeon, and his patients since he started performing operations in a day.

With modern methods and anaesthetics it is no longer necessary to have patients, or customers, as Mr Devlin calls them, admitted to hospital thereby taking on the role of being ill. "Once, when I rang a GP to check on how a patient had responded to a hernia operation done in a day I was told that he was fine and had resumed his place on a stool in his local betting shop within hours," Mr Devlin said.

The change in style has not been easy because the hospital ethos is built on the notion of a patient being ill and needing full-time care. Mr Devlin says, however, that it is simply not the case that a large number of people requiring general surgery are ill to that extent. "Once they are in for a few days you introduce to them the whole idea of beds, nurses and doctors and they take on the role of being ill. With day care you do not convert a customer, there to have a service carried out, into a patient." Often the surgery does not amount to even day

care. Mr Devlin operates on patients in Stockton-on-Tees and many arrive in the morning and are released at lunchtime. Others then arrive for the afternoon session and go home at the end of the day. Checks are made to ensure that patients are fit enough to leave and that there is someone to take them home.

"There are a large number of operations which can be done in this way as the result of a breakthrough in technique and the changing perceptions of patients who realise that needing an operation does not necessarily mean they are ill in the traditionally accepted sense," Mr Devlin said. "There is, however, a great deal about how hospitals are operated which has to change before the vast number of operations which could be done in a day are done in that manner."

Mr Devlin said that the removal of skin blemishes, breast biopsies, circumcisions, cataract operations, hernias and wisdom teeth removals could usually be done in a day. "These days it is not a question of coming round from an operation and being sick because of the anaesthetic. People come round within minutes and are well enough to go home."

Church urges freer giving

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

CHURCHGOERS should be prepared to give more generously to the Church of England to help to meet its £1 million a day running costs, according to a report published today.

Noting St Paul's dictum that "God loves a cheerful giver", the report says that people in poor areas often give more freely than in apparently more affluent neighbourhoods. With the church facing increasing expenses for mission and ministry, too many churchgoers and clergy are unwilling even to talk about money, according to the report, which calls for "dramatic changes in attitude and practice".

Brigadier Nigel Speller, stewardship adviser to the Exeter diocese and a member of the group that wrote the report, said: "It is reminding people about the importance of giving money as part of their Christian duties. Christians sometimes feel uncomfortable talking about money."

"It is more comfortable to talk about other subjects, such as time, talents, giving of abilities. We have produced this report as a gentle reminder to people of the facts of life."

The report comes at a time

when the church is facing heavy new commitments: the Decade of Evangelism begins next year; many dioceses have new church urban and rural projects and the church is hoping for an increase in stipendiary clergy.

The income from investments covers only about one third of the church's running costs so parishioners' contributions are vital. In spite of a resolution passed by the General Synod in 1982 calling for church members to make a half-tithe to the church, or 5 per cent of their net income, church members donate on average about 2.5 per cent of net income. That figure includes the millions of pounds given to church and cathedral appeals each year. Many Sunday churchgoers put little more than £1 in the collection plate. Of the 1.16 million church members in England, about 400,000 covenant on average £2.76 a week. In parishes, a small nucleus of people may often give far more than the average while a large number give much less.

Receiving and Giving: The Basis, Issue and Implications of Christian Stewardship (Church House Bookshop, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3BN; £2.10 by post)

Firms to be tried over tunnel death

The five British firms building the Channel tunnel were yesterday committed for trial at Maidstone Crown Court. They are being prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive after the death of Gary Woodward, aged 32, of Sheffield, who was crushed in the tunnel a year ago.

Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd, Costain Civil Engineering Ltd, Tarmac Construction Ltd, Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd and Wimpey Major Projects Ltd each faces one charge under health and safety laws.

999 call ignored

A police sergeant has been found guilty of misconduct over an incident where a boy, aged six, spent nearly ten hours beside his murdered mother's body after making a 999 call from his Taunton home. It was said the sergeant ignored the first of two emergency calls. The control room sergeant, who has not been named, will face the chief constable of Avon and Somerset police on November 7.

Fake find

A third-century hoard of materials and equipment for making counterfeit Roman coins has been found by a metal detector enthusiast to the south of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The find, on the site of the Roman town of Magiovinium, dates from about AD270 and includes 600 coin blanks.

Prison hostage

A prisoner held a 17-year-old inmate hostage at Armlay Jail, Leeds, for 14 hours before releasing him at 11am yesterday. The Manchester man, aged 20, blocked his cell door with lockers and beds. A senior official denied the man's allegation that his mail was being stopped.

Warning to anglers on cancer risk in fish

FIVE thousand anglers on the Mersey have been told they could face severe health risks if they eat anything they catch. The warning comes after a Greenpeace report that says that fish caught off Liverpool contain the highest levels of lead, DDT and PCBs found in the Irish Sea.

Jim Coleman, president of the North West Association of Sea Angling Clubs, said yesterday: "Anglers are taking up to 12 fish on a tide and storing them in refrigerators for eating."

"Because they do not have upset stomachs a couple of days later they think it is all right, but there are carcinogenic side-effects from these substances, and that is what we are terrified about. In 10 or 20 years time we could find our mates dying of cancer. It is a terrifying thought."

The association is petitioning local authorities, MPs and Euro MPs to clean up the river. Greenpeace says that eight firms are polluting the river with chemicals known to harm the human reproductive system. Five, it says, pump cancer-causing chemicals into the system.

Scientists from the group say cells in the Mersey have mercury levels three times higher than EC safety limits. DDT, although banned in Britain, continues to pollute long after use. PCBs are very toxic pesticide residues. Tim Birch, a Greenpeace campaigner, said: "Mercury is still being dumped into the river. We must begin to make a start in clearing it up now."

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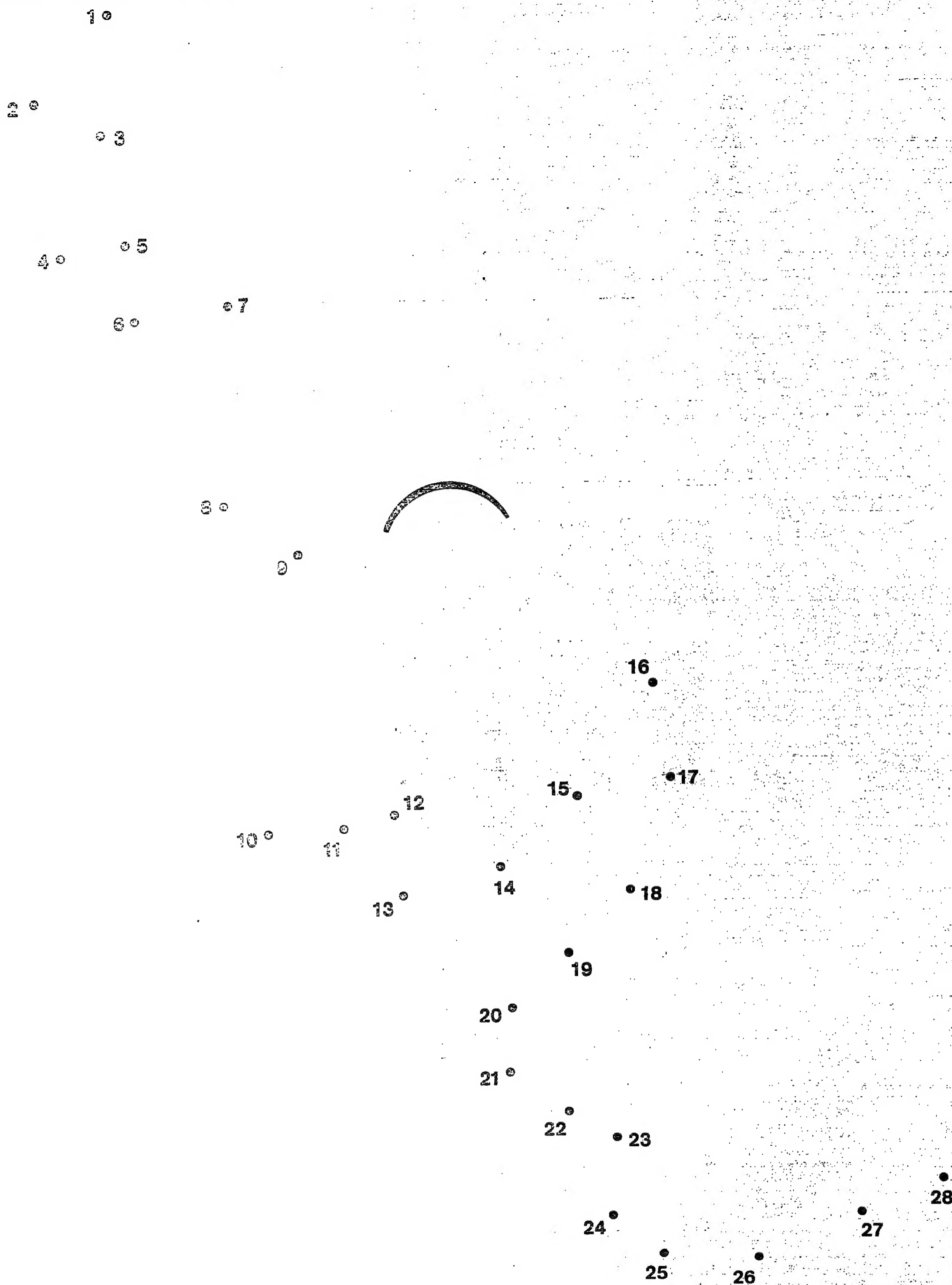
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Labour and Tories look for way out of their EC nightmare

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A political debate in Britain comes more and more to be dominated by European questions, only one party is enjoying life. Europe, Paddy Ashdown says, is the issue of the future and the Liberal Democrats are ready to be the party of the future.

Meanwhile, Neil Kinnock is struggling painfully to wrench his party to face that future while Margaret Thatcher gloomily contemplates divisions of the San Andreas Fault running down the cabinet table on matters European.

It is easy for Mr Ashdown. His party carries less baggage. It is easy to talk of pooling sovereignty when you are unlikely to have any to pool. But both the Conservative divisions and Lab-

our's increasing problems were highlighted by the debate this week on Britain's entry into the exchange-rate mechanism.

Neil Kinnock's jibe that in refusing to participate in the debate Mrs Thatcher was becoming a "crypto-Trappist" was a neat revenge. She did not speak because ERM entry was for her a defeat, not a victory.

She was persuaded to go in because she was twitching about interest rates as she has twitched since about education policy and about child benefit. The only safe way to achieve the interest rate cut she deemed a political necessity was under the ERM umbrella. As far as she is concerned, it stops there. ERM entry is the end of the line, not the beginning. She plans to go into the mini-summit in Rome this weekend and the

inter-governmental conference on European monetary union in December blazey away at the fallings of the EC on Soviet aid, on farm prices and Gatt and on the Gulf confrontation.

But other ministers see ERM entry, as they saw the original Madrid formula, as the beginning of an inevitable process that eventually will take a reluctant Britain into some more intensive form of economic and monetary co-operation in Europe.

John Major, well aware that the Tory party's backers in business are far keener on European co-operation than sovereignty-obsessed Tory MPs, sees the hard-ecu plan as offering evolutionary progress to a single currency ("evolutionary" is now

code for nothing meaningful happening this side of a general election).

While emphasising that the government remained as opposed as ever to the "imposition" of a single currency and an independent European central bank, he reminded MPs this week that the hard ecu could produce first a parallel currency and then a single currency by consent.

He has the support of Douglas Hurd, who is engaged in the traditional Foreign Office strategy of doing the minimum possible both to satisfy Mrs Thatcher's gut instincts and to prevent Britain's ever being faced with a stark choice between the slow lane and the fast lane of a two-lane Europe.

But, whereas the Major/Hurd

axis sees the hard ecu plan as offering genuine possibilities of greater European union, Mrs Thatcher regards it as no more than a diversionary tactic, and the rest of Europe tends to believe her.

Mrs Thatcher is the question. Ask her colleagues if British policy on Europe would remain the same under any other potential party leader in the next Parliament and heads invariably wag even if few dare to answer in detail.

Although Neil Kinnock was able to have fun this week with Tory disarray, his attempt to depict Labour as a more truly European party than the Conservatives, however, was unconvincing. It was no more appropriate, he said, for such an unaccountable institution to lan-

dle monetary policy than it was for it to handle public expenditure and taxation policies for democratic countries. Currency union would require joint growth strategies, fiscal co-ordination and regional policies "on an unprecedented scale". Labour sources concede that he would go no further than Mrs Thatcher will at the inter-governmental conference.

When Mrs Thatcher was still insisting that the time was not right and keeping Britain out of the ERM while John Smith was urging that we should go in, Labour was able to pin the "better European" label on its lapels. But now that that advantage has gone, Mr Kinnock is trying to have the best of both worlds. He is still claiming the title

with nothing but the rhetoric to distinguish his position from Mrs Thatcher's. Saying that Labour is in favour of greater economic co-operation and "convergence" in Europe while setting conditions that the rest of the EC has not the slightest intention of meeting is polo politics with a hole right through the middle.

Mr Kinnock is now developing his own Madrid formula. He too is playing the game of "when the time is ripe". For the truth is that he dare not go too far ahead of the government for fear that Mrs Thatcher will play an anti-Brussels little England card in the next election if he does. The British public, he and Mrs Thatcher agree, is not yet ready for parties of the future.

Beckett makes her mark as shadow cabinet rising star

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rise of Margaret Beckett, the fall of Bryan Gould and the long overdue arrival of Ann Taylor were the eye-catching features of the results yesterday of the annual elections to Labour's shadow cabinet.

With only one change in composition, the replacement of Joan Lestor by Mrs Taylor, the contest represented a strong vote of confidence by Labour MPs in the team assisting Neil Kinnock through a year in which he has always been ahead in the opinion polls.

As usual, the results were a fairly accurate form guide, with the votes of the incumbents going up and down according to MPs' perceptions of their performance in the past 12 months. But the lasting consequence of this year's contest could be a subtle but important change in the behaviour of that group of Labour politicians who have chosen two routes to power in the party, the national executive and the shadow cabinet.

Many of the figures who would hold the top jobs in a Labour government, such as John Smith and Gordon Brown, who finished top and second in yesterday's poll, do not even try to get on the executive, which is elected at the conference by the party at large.

Shortly before six members of his shadow cabinet voted against him in the key national executive debate on defence before the Blackpool conference, Mr Kinnock told them that he would expect absolute loyalty through collective cabinet responsibility in government.

The message of the parliamentary party to the rebels yesterday appeared to be that he had every right to expect it in opposition as well. Four of



Beckett: assured performer in House and on TV

the six, Miss Lestor, Mr Gould, John Prescott, and Jo Richardson, seem to have been singled out for punishment, with Miss Lestor thrown off, Mr Prescott in the last, eighteenth, elected place despite a good year as the transport spokesman, Mr Gould crashing to seventeenth place and Ms Richardson's vote well down despite the obligation on MPs to vote for at least three women.

There was scarcely concealed fury among MPs at Blackpool at the ammunition, in the form of headlines about revolts and splits, which the rebels had gratuitously offered to Labour's opponents, and most of it was directed at Mr Prescott and Mr Gould.

Mrs Beckett, who soared to third place yesterday, and Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, also voted against Mr Kinnock on that occasion but did not suffer in the same way, apparently because they were voting in line with long-held personal feelings on defence. Their fine performances during the past year, bolstered by the statutory women's vote in one case and the clan-like loyalty of the Scottish contingent in the

other, also served them well. Mr Gould's tumbling fall — only three years ago he topped the poll — could also be put down to a difficult year in his role as shadow environment secretary.

Mrs Beckett, elected for the first time only last year, is now the rising star of the shadow cabinet. Displaying all the toughness appropriate to a shadow Treasury chief secretary, she has cast a beady eye over her colleagues' policy aspirations, scaling down their costly commitments. In the Commons and on television she has been an assured performer.

Mrs Taylor, aged 43, had been widely expected to secure election last year, but MPs' lack of familiarity with the compulsory women's voting rule may have militated against her. She is one of the dwindling number of Labour MPs to have served in government. She was in the whips' office during the last two years of the Callaghan government. During the present Parliament she has won acclaim as an environment spokeswoman.

Leading article, page 17

Members elected		Votes	
John Smith	141	Michael Meacher	111
Gordon Brown	138	Ann Clwyd	102
Margaret Beckett	133	Ann Taylor	100
Robin Cook	125	Jack Cunningham	99
Gerald Kaufman	121	Barry Jones	99
Jack Straw	119	Jo Richardson	97
David Clark	118	Frank Dobson	96
Tony Blair	115	Bryan Gould	94
Donald Dewar	115	John Prescott	85

GERMANY

Stasi funds 'should be used'

By JOHN WINDER

THE "slush funds" salted away in Germany and abroad by the East German secret police, the Stasi, should be used to aid Eastern Europe, a Conservative MP suggested during questions about democracy in Eastern Europe.

William Powell, MP for Corby, said that he had visited the Stasi headquarters recently and had discovered that they had hoped to return to power on those huge funds.

Tristan Garel-Jones, foreign office minister, replied that the Stasi would not find their way back to power.

George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that Britain

was setting a bad example. The £15 million know-how fund to help Eastern Europe had all been committed and, despite the demand, desire and need for that help, no new projects could be sanctioned before next April.

That showed up the Tory party's concern for the new developments as sanctimonious propaganda.

Mr Garel-Jones disagreed and said that no other country was running a similar aid programme. That kind of help was more useful than the kind of soft loans that hit the headlines but were not taken up and did little good.

Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that it would not be

MIDDLE EAST

Hurd warning to Israel on killings

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, warned the Israeli government yesterday that its unwillingness to accept the United Nations secretary general's mission to investigate the killing of 21 Palestinians was diverting the UN from its task of getting Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Urging the Israelis to think again, Mr Hurd said that their refusal to do so would give President Saddam Hussein a cause that he would exploit ruthlessly.

The Foreign Office wants the United Nations to tighten the tourniquet on Iraq with progressively more rigorous resolutions, the latest one to hold Iraq liable to pay compensation to foreign citizens for the damage resulting from its seizure of Kuwait. But Britain is finding security council members preoccupied instead by the Temple Mount deaths.

Mr Hurd acknowledged the "awkward time" during his visit to Israel last week, when Palestinian leaders boycotted a planned meeting with him after the foreign secretary was reported to have told a private meeting of Israeli MPs that Britain was opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state.

Challenged by the shadow foreign secretary, Gerald Kaufman, to state his position, Mr Hurd said yesterday that the government acknowledged the right of the Palestinians to self-determination but had never advocated a Palestinian state as opposed to some other solution.

Mr Hurd said that the Palestinian cause had been put back by Iraq's seizure of Kuwait and the ambivalent attitude of the PLO to the invasion. He criticised suggestions that President Saddam should be persuaded to withdraw from Kuwait in exchange for an international conference on the Middle East.

Iraq's withdrawal had to be complete and unconditional.

PROCEDURE

Big saving from rule change

LONG-standing arrangements for the tabling of questions by MPs to ministers are to be changed, the Commons decided last night.

At present, hundreds of questions appear on the order paper every day at an estimated annual cost of £1,380,000. New arrangements outlined by Sir Geoffrey Howe, leader of the House, will cut the printing bill alone by £750,000. Under the proposals, MPs will be allowed to put down only two questions a day for oral answer.

Other proposals put forward will change the way MPs scrutinise EC regulations. Often these are debated late in the night by a few members. In future, a newly constituted scrutiny committee will study them and take evidence.

CONSTITUTION

Delay likely in PR study

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership established a procedure yesterday for examining changes in the electoral system that will almost certainly mean that decisions on elections to the Commons cannot be made by the party until after the country next goes to the polls.

The ruling national executive committee set up a working party headed by Raymond Plant, professor of politics at Southampton university, to look at electoral systems for Labour's proposed Scottish assembly, the European parliament, the proposed Welsh and English regional assemblies, the proposed elected second chamber and the House of Commons.

The move came after the decision of the annual conference this month, against the wishes of the Labour leadership, to add elections to the Commons to the working party's remit. The executive decided yesterday that the group should consider the five institutions separately and make individual recommendations for each.

The working party will be expected to give priority to studying systems for the Scottish assembly and the European parliament, work that NEC sources predicted last night would take up most next year. The working party, therefore, is not expected to be in a position to make recommendations about the Westminster Parliament before a general election, which Labour is expecting to come some time next year.

The working party appears to be well balanced, with members ranging from enthusiasts such as Jeff Rooker and John Evans, to sceptics such as Bryan Gould, Margaret Beckett and Jo Richardson.

Professor Plant, the choice of Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley to chair the work-

ing group, has told NEC sources that he has an open mind on proportional representation for Westminster elections.

The NEC was faced yesterday with conflicting positions, a conference vote that narrowly favoured the inclusion of the Commons in the working party's terms, and the party's policy document *Looking to the Future*, which excluded it. Consideration of proportional representation for Westminster is therefore included but on the understanding that it takes a lower priority.

The other members of the committee are two NEC members, Tom Burlison and Richard Rosser. Professor Ben Pimlott, Alistair Darling, front bench home affairs spokesman, Lord Underhill, Labour's former national agent, Lady Hollis, and a Labour European MP who has yet to be chosen.

Tilbury docks to be sold

Tilbury docks are to be sold into private ownership as soon as legislation can be enacted to give the Port of London Authority power to sell them.

Patrick McLoughlin, junior transport minister, said in a written reply that Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, had decided so to build on the benefits that had flowed from abolition of the dock labour scheme. The PLA would retain its present conservancy responsibilities.

Storm help for Scots

Three Scottish local authorities that suffered "undue financial burden" because of the February storms are to share a government grant of £62,435 to help in repair work. The councils are Highland regional, Inverness district and Perth and Kinross district.

M40 opening

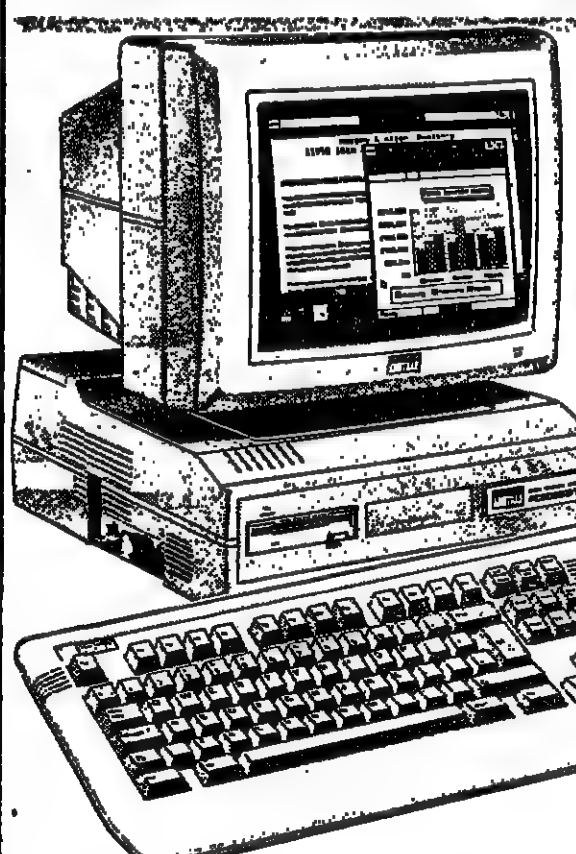
The M40 from London to Birmingham should be open early next year, earlier than expected, the transport department said yesterday. Traffic on the M1 between London and the M6 interchange should be reduced by between 7,500 and 8,500 vehicles a day in each direction.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; prime minister; Broadcasting Bill; Lords amendments; Lords (3): Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill; Commons amendments.

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Gorbachev's envoy in Cairo as new Gulf peace mission begins

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A NEW and previously un-announced Soviet Gulf peace mission began in Cairo last night, when President Gorbachev's special envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, arrived from Moscow and began talks with senior Egyptian officials.

Diplomats said that the mission was certain to fuel speculation about a possible negotiated end to the Gulf confrontation after hints this week that Saudi Arabia might favour an eventual territorial compromise with Iraq over Kuwait. Those reports were later strongly denied by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Primakov was quoted by the state-owned Middle East news agency as saying he would continue pressing for a peaceful settlement. "We have not exhausted available opportunities to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis," he told the agency before his talks began.

According to Soviet sources, Mr Primakov's mission — his second to the region in less than a month — will also include visits to Saudi Arabia and Syria. Egypt's two main Arab allies in the anti-Baghdad coalition and Iraq, which the Soviet official has already visited once in his hectic round of diplomacy. That has also taken him to Washington, London,

Rome and Paris. Since his first meeting with President Saddam Hussein on October 6 in Baghdad, Mr Primakov, one of Moscow's leading Middle East experts has remained almost a lone voice maintaining what he recently called in Paris "prudent optimism" about the chances of a negotiated settlement.

His latest trip coincided with increasing talk of the possibility of an inter-Arab deal with the Iraqi leader which both the United States and Britain have striven heavily to play down. No firm evidence has yet emerged from Baghdad to back Mr Primakov's original claim that Iraq was prepared to withdraw from Kuwait if it was able to keep an oilfield and two disputed islands at the head of the Gulf.

The Soviet envoy's claim was flatly denied by Iraq's information minister, but many experienced Middle East observers saw this merely as a step in a bargaining process and did not take it as final. Since his first visit, there have been signs, including petrol rationing, that the United Nations embargo on Iraq is beginning to bite.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo said that the Kremlin's latest diplomatic drive appeared designed to bridge the gap between

the insistence of the moderate Arab states of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and President Saddam's continuing public refusal to contemplate a pullout. "The central issue that I think Mr Primakov will be handling will be the element of timing," a European diplomat said.

Mr Primakov's arrival in Egypt coincided with the imminent return of President Mubarak from a Gulf tour which has included talks with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia.

Opposition political sources in the Egyptian capital and third world diplomats claimed yesterday that the Egyptian president had been trying to arrange an Arab summit in Cairo in November attended both by Iraq and Kuwait, but there has been no official confirmation of these reports.

On October 16, President Gorbachev's chief spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, backed Mr Primakov's optimistic assessment, but gave no details. "I can only tell you that we are today more able to look more optimistically at the prospect of a political settlement in the Gulf region," he told reporters then in Moscow, adding that the details would be known "within one or two weeks".

On Tuesday, the conservative Moscow daily, *Sovetskoye Rossiya* said the Soviet Union should cut back co-operation with the United States over the Gulf crisis and play a mediating role. In an unusually critical commentary on Soviet policy, the paper said Moscow would suffer from any conflict in the Gulf, while Washington was building forces and influence in the region.

"We had and still have economic interests in Iraq (the source of a third of our hard currency income) ... at the moment the authority of the USSR among the Arabs is still high enough for us to play a peace making role," the paper said. "This would be far more humanitarian than discussions with (the US defence secretary Richard) Cheney about military aspects of the situation."

When Moscow joined Washington in condemning Iraq's occupation of Kuwait on August 2 it cut off large arms supplies to Baghdad. The Soviet Union in turn lost Iraqi oil supplies, much of which would have been re-exported for vital foreign currency.

Moscow said last month it was ready to send troops to the Gulf under a United Nations flag, but insisted that Iraq must be forced from Kuwait by peaceful means. Conservative communist deputies in Moscow have attacked the Soviet government for considering troop deployment, recalling Moscow's disastrous nine-year war in Afghanistan.

● SAUDI ARABIA: The United Nations trade embargo is curbing fuel supplies to Iraq's armed forces but there is no sign of any pull back to northern Kuwait, Britain's Gulf force commander said yesterday.

"I think we can see that the refinement of crude oil to aviation fuel, lubricants to tanks and other vehicles is becoming more of a problem for him (President Saddam Hussein)," Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine told reporters.

Air Chief Marshal Hine, visiting the "Desert Rats" armoured brigade in northeastern Saudi Arabia, said there was evidence that the embargo, enforced by an international armada in the Gulf region, was beginning to bite.

He spoke a day after Iraq began petrol rationing in an effort to ensure adequate supplies of imported chemicals and additives to refine fuel for its million-strong army.

"It would be surprising if the squeeze were not hurting in one or two ways ... Life will get more difficult for him as time goes by," declared Air Chief Marshal Hine. (Reuters)



At the ready: with the Saudi Arabian sun beating down, British troops from armoured personnel carriers show their preparedness for action as they get in line at Jubail Port

US pollution law may fall victim to budget impasse

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE most sweeping anti-pollution legislation in American history, a long-awaited bill to help poor working Americans pay for child care and proposed cuts in farm subsidies, could become casualties of a protracted impasse between Congress and the White House over how to cut the federal budget deficit.

Leaders of the current session of Congress have said they must pass these important pieces of legislation before they adjourn — ideally, as soon as possible — to their home states for the final stages of mid-term re-election campaigns. An outbreak of partisan bickering over how to cut the deficit, however, has dented legislators' hopes for a swift end to the long-running budget conflict and is using up valuable time.

Already the budget mess has claimed as almost certain victims bills designed to limit spending on congressional elections, restrict the number of appeals available to death-row prisoners and tighten regulations on the cable television industry. On the borderline are bills on immigration and housing.

"The problem is not so much that we do not have time to debate the bills as we lack the time to resolve the wildly diverging House and Senate versions," one congressional aide said.

At the start of the week, the White House and members of Congress appeared close to a deal to cut \$500 billion (\$257 billion) from the deficit over the next five years after a compromise at the weekend to increase the marginal rate of tax on top-earners to 31 per cent from 28 per cent. But the

proceedings — regarded with increasing scepticism by Americans — ran into trouble on Tuesday when Democrats in the House of Representatives failed to show general support for a final package under discussion. However, the cloud of a voter backlash against politicians running for re-election next month if no deal is reached could yet stir a final agreement this week.

In the words of Lloyd Bentsen, the Democratic chairman of the Senate finance committee: "The reaction is 'Let's get the job done and get it behind us'." President Bush has been counting on wide-spread Democratic support for the package since conservative members of his own party have indicated he cannot rely on their support to pass a plan that reverses his "no new taxes" 1988 campaign pledge, especially while Republicans are running in state and local elections.

At issue, with only hours remaining before a midnight deadline when the government's temporary authority would expire, was the Democrats' wish to levy more revenues on millionaires by imposing a surcharge of as much as 10 per cent on income and their opposition to an increase on petrol tax and cuts on medical benefits for the elderly. Republicans prefer to raise taxes on the wealthy by cutting income tax deductions.

The Republican leaders of the House and Senate, Robert Michel and Dan Rostenkowski, consulted with Mr Bush at the White House for two hours on Tuesday night to see if he would compromise on the surtax issue. The Democrats are

poised to accuse the president of protecting the rich if he refuses to sign a deficit plan that contains a surtax on the 60,000 wealthiest Americans.

On Capitol Hill, opinion was mixed about whether congressional efforts would reach a final accord this week in time for Congress to recess and return home to campaign before election day on November 6. Democrats and Republicans blamed each other for the impasse. Barring a recall to Washington by Mr Bush in the event of a national emergency, legislators are scheduled to break until the start of the 102nd session in early January. Failure to reach an agreement on the budget deficit could prompt the first lame-duck session of Congress since 1982 if members are forced to return after election day.

Meanwhile, House leaders said they were willing to introduce another emergency spending bill designed to keep the federal government operating after a midnight deadline. Mr Bush, clearly irritated with the latest impasse in the budget negotiations, has not said whether he would sign the fourth such stopgap bill in four weeks. Earlier, he indicated he would be prepared to keep open government services if Congress was making sufficient progress on an imminent deal.

Meanwhile, the Senate yesterday failed to override President Bush's veto of a civil rights bill that would have made it easier for workers to win job discrimination suits. The 66-34 vote was one short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto.

Elizabeth Dole leaves Bush team

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

ELIZABETH Dole, the highest-ranking woman in the Bush administration, yesterday announced her resignation as labour secretary, the first cabinet member to step down since President Bush took office. She is to become president of the American Red Cross.

Some reports here yesterday said that Mrs Dole had felt "frozen out" of the administration's policy-making process and had been treated with suspicion by some officials because she is the wife of Robert Dole, the Senate Republican minority leader who ran against Mr Bush for the presidential nomination in 1988. She was not one of the president's inner circle and it was widely noted, for example, that John Sununu, the White House chief of staff, led the administration's minimum wage negotiations with Congress in 1989.

Publicly, however, Mrs Dole, aged 54, gave no indication of unhappiness when she made the announcement at the White House yesterday. She praised Mr Bush, who was standing by her side. Having served in every administration since Lyndon Johnson's a quarter of a century ago, she was said by friends to be looking for a new challenge. She will nearly double her salary, from \$98,400 (\$50,600) to \$185,000 when she joins the Red Cross in January, and she is also said to be interested in running for elected office herself, most likely challenging a Democratic senator in her native North Carolina in 1992.

Mrs Dole, formerly President Reagan's transportation secretary until she resigned in 1987 to help her husband's presidential campaign, had a low profile as labour secretary, her only conspicuous success being to resolve the miners' strike in Appalachia earlier this year. Most recently she had begun to consider ways to remove the "glass ceiling" preventing women from achieving top jobs. She is the only woman in the Bush cabinet and her departure next month will leave Carla Hills, the US trade representative, as the administration's most senior woman. There was speculation yesterday that Mr Bush might replace Mrs Dole with Lynn Martin, the Republican congresswoman who is fighting a losing battle for the Senate seat held by Democrat Paul Simon in Illinois.

On the same day, a Republican congressman, Donald Lukens of Ohio, resigned yesterday rather than face a second charge of sexual misconduct. Convicted last year of having sex with a teenager, the



Mrs Dole: leaving to head the American Red Cross

House ethics committee was examining a new charge that he had harassed a woman lift operator on Capitol Hill.

In another political development, it seems that if the American president were appointed by political reporters, the race for 1992 would be almost over. Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York state, would already have landed the Democratic nomination and now he is closing in on the White House.

Until the past couple of months, wisdom held that the governor would be wasting his time in a race against a popular, incumbent Republican in 1992. All that has changed with the mood swing of this autumn — the jitters over the Gulf, the onset of recession, and the damage wrought on Mr Bush's authority by the budget debacle.

The old liberal themes of compassion and social justice have resurfaced as potential winners, and no one embodies them better than Mr Cuomo, the New York trial lawyer and champion of the underdog. A recent survey of party activists by the *National Journal* found Mr Cuomo the overwhelming choice as 1992 candidate. Commentators from Richard Nixon, one of Mr Cuomo's admirers on the right, to the left-wing *Nation*, have been singing the governor's praises as the ideal man for the times. It said: "When Cuomo speaks, one could be convinced that here is a man who would spoon the country, the castor oil it needs." No one has been able to ignore that this time Mr Cuomo looks as if he may throw his hat into the ring. Though he is guaranteed reelection against Pierre Rinfret, the weak Republican challenger, to his governor's seat next month, Mr Cuomo has been campaigning with vitriolic attacks on the Bush administration.

Young Briton dies in Kuwait crash

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

THE imminent release of two young British brothers from Kuwait ended tragically when one was killed and the other was injured in a car crash, according to reports reaching Baghdad yesterday. The two, who are students, were identified as Alex Duncan, who was killed, and his brother, Rory, who was in a serious condition at the Sabat hospital in Kuwait. "These young men were on Ted Heath's list and the Iraqis were really doing their best to get them to Baghdad to catch the Branson flight with the other freed hostages," said Harold Walker, the British ambassador to Baghdad.

The two brothers were on holiday visiting their father, mother and their two sisters in Kuwait, when Iraq invaded and the family went into hiding. The women were among the first to be repatriated to Britain last month and the boys had the opportunity to return then, but they chose instead to stay with their father.

During his four-day mission to

free British hostages, the former prime minister made a particular point of pressing home their case to President Saddam Hussein. Alex Duncan was an undergraduate at Balliol, Mr Heath's former Oxford college.

The accident is believed to have happened on Tuesday morning soon after the brothers set off from Kuwait on the eight-hour drive to Baghdad along a road notoriously congested with both military and civilian traffic. The Iraqi driver of the car was injured and taken to hospital, and an escort from the Iraqi ministry of foreign affairs died in the crash. "The awful irony is that the Iraqis were being helpful, trying to rush these young men to the airport," Mr Walker said.

Last night the British embassy was trying to obtain permission from the Iraqi authorities to send its consul to visit Rory Duncan in hospital and persuade Baghdad to allow the father to return home with his injured son on compassionate grounds. The embassy was also trying to organise the repatriation of Alex Duncan's body. "We are doing what we can but dealing with a problem in Kuwait is very difficult," Mr Walker said.

[Kuwait is now a dying city where basic services are breaking down, according to a report which has just reached the British government. (Andrew McEwen writes.) The source has not been identified but is described in Whitehall as "highly reliable". It says there are serious bread shortages, no eggs or fresh fruit and very little meat. Prices of some foods, such as tinned tuna, have increased by 400 per cent, and there is no organised rationing system. The quality of the water supply is declining, rubbish is accumulating in the streets, most schools are closed and only 20 per cent of children are still receiving education. Commercial life has almost ceased and the only people still working are the civil servants. The standard of civil administration is described as "chaotic".

Morale among the Iraqi forces is said to have been undermined by uncertainty and lack of food, with the troops receiving only one meal of rice and bread a day.]

Militias ordered out of Beirut by Hrawi

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

PRESIDENT Hrawi's government yesterday ordered all militias to leave Beirut and to hand over positions to the Lebanese Army as a first step towards implementation of a new security plan for the capital and environs. The announcement came as thousands of mourners buried Dany Chamoun, the prominent Christian politician, his wife and their two young sons, who were murdered on Sunday, the latest victims of the city's gunmen.

The government decision undermined Mr Hrawi's determination to impose his authority and reunify the capital 11 days after the removal of General Michel Aoun, the rebel Christian leader, by Syrian and Lebanese forces. Edmond Rizk, the information minister, said government forces would seize militia posts and stop "all illegal and illegitimate" taxes levied by the militias.

The announcement came only hours after Abdel-Halim Khaddam, Syria's vice-president, reaffirmed the support of Damascus for the Lebanese government during a surprise symbolic visit to Beirut. Yesterday's announcement did not set a deadline for the militia withdrawal, but government sources said President Hrawi expected to have a militia-free Beirut within 10 days.

Publicly at least, all militia leaders have accepted the plan under which government forces backed by the Syrian Army will have exclusive control over the 17-mile coastal strip from the Dog river, north of the capital, to the Damour river in the south.

The plan's toughest test will come in the next few days. Samir Geagea, the commander of the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia, has to relinquish a stronghold in east Beirut, but he has hinted that he will do so only after the pro-Iranian Hezbollah completely abandons the southern suburbs. Mr Geagea also wants guarantees for his supporters, who have been accused by Walid Jumblatt, the Druze Progressive Socialist party leader, of being behind the Chamoun murders. Mr Jumblatt yesterday led the Chamoun's funeral procession.

WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

Republicans find president an electoral liability

PRESIDENT Bush, his popularity plunging, has become a liability for Republican candidates in the November 6 congressional elections. This became embarrassingly evident on Tuesday when he went campaigning in New England.

In Vermont, Congressman Peter Smith gave a blistered Mr Bush one of the most lukewarm introductions of his presidency, emphasising their disagreements on the budget and the civil rights bill which the president vetoed on Monday. In New Hampshire, Congressman Robert Smith did not appear with the president at all, sending his wife and pleading important votes in Washington.

In Connecticut, Gary Franks, a black Republican challenger, attended a fund-raiser with Mr Bush but banned the media. "If something's radioactive, your natural inclination is to stay away from it," commented one congressman's aide. To cap it all, Ed Rollins, head of the National Republican Congressional Committee, has sent candidates a memo urging them: "Do not hesitate to oppose ... the president." Citing the "precipitous"



drop in Mr Bush's ratings, the "lack of a clear Republican position on taxes and spending" and the perception that the Republican party wants to cut Medicare and protect the rich, he wanted candidates that failure to distance themselves from those factors "could fatally wound your campaign".

To be fair to Mr Bush, the electorate, sick of the budget mess and appalled by the \$500 billion (\$258 billion) savings and loan scandal, dislikes congress even more. For one man — Jack Gargan, a retired insurance agent from

Tampa, Florida — enough is enough. He recently decided that all 100 senators and 435 congressmen had to go. He founded THRO Inc (Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out). Using \$45,000 of savings, he started placing full-page newspaper advertisements that began: "I'm outraged that ... and I'm livid when ... and ended ... But I'm not going to give in to those clowns". He now gets 500 letters and donations a day. At least 40,000 Americans have pledged to vote against all incumbents. He has so far placed well over 150 advertisements from coast to coast and with each more than paying for itself they continue to multiply. It will all come to naught, alas. Money wins elections here, and incumbents have raised 30 times more than their challengers.

Common Cause, a group fighting for political reform, reports that only 23 of the 405 congressmen seeking re-election face challengers who have raised even half what they have. Of the rest, 78 had no opposition at all and 218 had opponents who had raised less than a paltry \$25,000.

As Fred Wertheimer, Common Cause's president, lamented, however strong the anti-incumbent sentiment, "House members are shielded by a wall of political money that makes them nearly invincible".

The invincibility of incumbents may explain why an estimated 120 million Americans, two-thirds of the electorate, will not bother to vote. The pop star Madonna is doing her best to counter this apathy. The recording industry, which is alarmed by recent prosecutions of pop groups on obscenity charges, has recruited her to mobilise the youth vote. She appears in a 60-second television commercial wearing red lingerie and combat boots. "Dr King, Malcolm X, freedom of speech is as good as sex," she raps as two male dancers spank her from behind. "And if you don't vote, you're going to get a spanking." Her efforts are not universally applauded. She loosely covers her lingerie with the Stars and Stripes. The Veterans of Foreign Wars organisation and other old-timers are disgusted.

If you cannot outspend your opponent, a vile personal slur is the next best way to defeat him. Thus in Florida one candidate's past clinical depression and another's haemorrhoids have been political issues, as have the youthful womanising of Clayton Williams, Republican candidate for Texas governor, and the long-defeated alcoholism of Anne Richards, his Democratic rival.

In Minnesota, a prize state that believed itself immune from gutter politics, Jon Grunzeth, a Republican, was hot on the heels of Rudy Perpich, the incumbent Democratic governor, when two friends of his daughter suddenly surfaced with signed affidavits alleging that he had skinny-dipped — and more — with them in his swimming pool in 1981 when they were 13 and 14. Mr Grunzeth, who is 44, strenuously denied the charge and voluntarily underwent a lie detector test. Accusing Mr Perpich of foul play, he challenged the governor to do the same, an invitation Mr Perpich declined. Innocent or not, Mr Grunzeth's fortunes have plummeted.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "لا بد من التغيير"

Elizabeth
Dole
leaves
Bush
team



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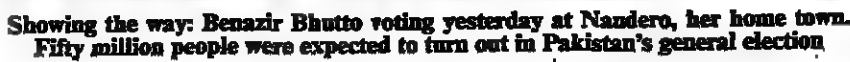
THE FUTURE IS PHILIPS

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN RAWALPINDI

Women, as usual, voted in separate booths. Many used a thumb print instead of a photograph on their national identity cards because of purdah curbs on having their

Mrs Azim observed that politicians had made promises to women voters of houses, money or goods. "But they will never give them these things. Most of the women are not educated and have no political awareness. Very few can even write."

There was little violence yesterday. One man was killed in the Punjab town of Okara in a dispute between rival supporters over the raising of flags. Another man was stabbed to death in the Punjab town of Gujranwala during a fight between rival supporters.



FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN LARKANA

Miss Bhutto has accused the administration of rigging polls in these two constituencies. It has been told that in some of the polling booths bogus voters were stuffed in the ballot boxes," she alleged. She said the leaders of her party scheduled to meet in Lahore on June 25, would have to discuss whether to accept the election results if the party was deprived of a majority.

FROM COOMZ KAPOOR IN DELHI

support not to let his government by upholding his party's secular principles and denying his former allies, the BJP, to head a religious procession, which was inflaming feelings between Muslims and Hindus over the controversial Ram Janmabhoomi temple issue.

With no single party in a position to secure majority support, a mid-term election seems inevitable. But Janata Dal sources are confident that the government would get the backing of MPs from other parties who belong to the castes for whom Mr Singh's government recently reserved extra government jobs.

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

World Economic Forum, sponsored by a private Geneva-based organisation, was his most positive endorsement of reform since the mass killings.

We gave few details of just what reforms would entail, and emphasised again that China was working towards combining a planned with a

Diplomats gave a warning that, rather than genuinely reflecting his position, Mr Li's speech might have been tailored to fit his audience of potential investors.

Rossmeiss commented that Mr Li, who was relaxed and jovial, seemed eager to "dispel any impression of a *salutiste*".

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German law on gene engineering exorcises spirit of nazism

From IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

THE German parliament yesterday passed the world's first law aimed at controlling genetic engineering of human embryos. The law took five years of debate to draft and was passed only in the face of strong opposition from the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens, who felt there were still too many loopholes.

The law's intention is to prevent human genes being used for research purposes. An assurance was given some time ago by the main genetic laboratories, such as the Max Planck Institute and the German Society for the Advancement of Scientific Research, that no work would be carried out on

human embryos, but the government and the SPD felt legal controls would be better.

Scientists are keen to use genetic engineering techniques to try to cure cancer and hereditary complaints, and all parties felt the need to set out statutory guidelines. The memory of "research" on human beings by Nazi doctors made many feel it was important not to leave such a matter to a code of conduct enforced solely by scientists.

The law expressly prohibits any planned production of embryos for research purposes. Along with this there is a ban on gene transfer, including any kind of cloning or the creation of hybrids by mixing genes from humans with those of animals or any other genetically

different tissues. Artificial fertilisation of eggs to produce test-tube babies is permitted, but only one time to carry out one treatment except when there are health problems facing a woman, which might make it impossible for her to produce eggs later. The law also rules out any method of pre-determining the sex of a child, save in cases of serious hereditary illness.

The question of surrogate motherhood is regarded as too complicated to be covered by the genetic engineering law alone. Those who agree to carry a child produced by the test-tube method from eggs and sperm from the parents are in a different category

to those who have a child of their own artificially fertilised by the father. The adoption law will be extended to deal with these cases.

Breaking the new law is exclusively a criminal offence, but the SPD and the Greens are hoping it will be extended to cover civil law questions, such as responsibility for hereditary descent. The Social Democrats are also pressing for a change in the constitution to make sure that the new law is interpreted identically throughout Germany to avoid the risk of a "fertilisation tourism industry".

[In Britain, research involving human embryos is covered by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology bill, which passed its final vote in the House of Lords on

October 18. It now awaits royal assent, expected within the next week (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Once enacted, the bill will set up a human fertilisation and embryology authority, responsible for issuing licences for embryo research. Unlike in Germany, it will permit the production of embryos for research, under licence, though no embryo will be allowed to develop for more than 14 days after fertilisation.

The creation of hybrid species, human cloning and the payment of donors of sperm and eggs will be forbidden. Penalties for flouting the regulations would be fines, or up to two years imprisonment. The bill does not allow the introduction of genes into an

embryo as part of medical treatment, but does leave open the possibility of permitting such procedures when they are part of a research programme. In general, it is a more permissive piece of legislation than the German law.]

● **Longer hour:** For the benefit of its new communist members from east Germany, the Bundestag has officially increased the length of the hour to 66 minutes.

The extension was agreed by the German parliament's council of elders, meeting yesterday to decide how to accommodate the 24 members nominated by the Party of Democratic Socialists (PDS), as the communists are now known. Under German parliamentary practice, each group represented

has the right to speak in each hour of a debate for a length of time proportionate to its size. Before unification, the three government coalition parties were allocated 34 minutes an hour, the opposition Social Democrats could speak for 20 minutes, and the Greens for just seven minutes. This arrangement had already extended the hour to 61 minutes.

As parliamentary procedure stands, the PDS should not be allowed to speak. It does not have enough MPs to form a proper group, which must include at least 5 per cent of the total membership of the house. It has, nevertheless, been agreed that at least until the next election they will be allowed to speak for five minutes an hour.

Lack of interest in bureaucratic jobs saps UK's influence in EC

From MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

BRITISH civil servants are rapidly being excluded from any say in the running of the European Community in spite of a vigorous government recruitment drive.

In two weeks' time the deadline will pass for this year's main competition for jobs in the European Commission. Of the 500 applicants, only eight are British. The proportion is far worse than in recent years and threatens to leave Britain almost unrepresented in the lower grades of EC administration.

Britain has fewer commission jobs per head of population than any other community member. Only 11 per cent of posts are now held by British nationals, well short of Britain's 15 per cent quota. What worries Whitehall and British officials in Brussels is that the share is falling in 1988 only 6.5 per cent of all those applying were British.

"The British staff problem is rapidly becoming acute," said

Bruce Millan, one of the two British commissioners. "It's hard to see why young people are not keen to come, as there is so much of interest and importance going on. Perhaps potential candidates feel they wouldn't be welcome here. But that is quite wrong."

Britain has consistently complained that Brussels recruitment practices discriminate against British applicants. The main intake is limited to lawyers and economists, qualifications held by most civil servants in all member states except Britain. In the last law competition two years ago only 44 Britons applied out of 830, and only one was engaged out of the 104 successful candidates. Even he was not British but a Portuguese holding a British passport.

Earlier this year Francis Maude, then a minister at the Foreign Office, had talks with Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, the commissioner for personnel policy, on ways to boost British applications. The government introduced a "European fast-track" into the civil service, promising to give applicants wide experience of European affairs in Whitehall in the expectation that they would then seek a career in Brussels. The commission promised to hold more general entry examinations to give a wider range of British graduates a chance to apply. So far Brussels has done little to implement this.

Britain is quite well represented in senior grades, but is concerned that, with few newcomers, it will gradually have a smaller and smaller say in the running of the commission, with a consequent lack of understanding of how EC proposals would be viewed in Britain. There is also concern that because Britain is seen as generally negative towards the community, other countries will be unwilling to make any effort to recruit more British employees.

Apart from Britain, only Italy is below its quota. Germany is roughly in balance, France has more than its share and Belgium is greatly over-represented. Despite efforts to cut back on Belgium's intake, universities in Belgium run special courses tailored to commission requirements.

Britain is also trying to encourage block recruitment to allow candidates to plan their careers. At present successful candidates are put on a list and invited to take up jobs as they come up, which keeps some hanging on for up to a year. This is less of a problem in many member states, but a barrier in Britain, where successful candidates have to choose whether to join the domestic civil service instead.

Commission officials say that to catch up Britain must capture at least 20 per cent of the new jobs for the next two or three years. At the present level of applications, that is impossible. Candidates have only until November 9 to apply for the coming competition.

Leading article, page 17

Finding of body fuels a French scandal

From PHILIP JACOBSON
IN PARIS

A LURID scandal involving the abduction of a homosexual clergyman, who had been at the centre of a highly sensitive investigation by undercover police in Paris, took a new turn yesterday with the discovery of a body in dense woods outside the capital. Official sources indicated that it was almost certainly Pastor Joseph Douc, who has not been seen since unknown men dragged him from his home more than three months ago.

It emerged that Pastor Douc, a Protestant who ran the "Centre of Christ the Liberator for Sexual Minorities", had been watched by the Renseignements Généraux, an intelligence agency under the interior ministry.

Leaks to the French press suggested that the centre was a cover for an extensive paedophile network, allegedly involving prominent figures in politics and the media. At the time he disappeared, Pastor Douc's dossier was in the hands of an intelligence specialist, Inspector Jean-Marie Dufour, who had spent many hours following him, but was in a bar in Pigalle when the abduction occurred.

The inspector's role in *Affaire Douc* is now under investigation by the police. This did not stop him giving the newspaper *Le Figaro* his potentially explosive version of events. He had, he said, been working for a small intelligence unit, the Groupe des Enquêtes Réservées, that handled politically sensitive cases. "First I was requested to recruit an adolescent of about 18 who could then be introduced to various personalities." He then had to organise a network of male and female prostitutes, after which he was assigned to the Douc case.

"I began to ask myself if these affairs of a sexual nature might not turn out to be connected with each other," he told the newspaper, apparently straight-faced. Questioned by police he denied any involvement in the abduction of the clergyman he had kept under close observation.

He was unexpectedly given bail on a charge of having misused his pistol. Soon afterwards, a government response to the affair was delivered in the National Assembly by Pierre Joxe, the interior minister. "The police have never been given orders in breach of the law or of their honour," he assured deputies. Pastor Douc's body has apparently now turned up, although the cause of death is still unknown. After 10 years in his line of work, Inspector Dufour undoubtedly knows a good deal that the police authorities and the government would much prefer to keep under wraps. Since he is not inclined to act as scapegoat, this sleazy business could be with us for some time.



Safely gathered in: a woman worker dancing beside crates of harvested carrots on a co-operative farm at Brandys-nad-Laben, near Prague, as she celebrates the end of this year's agricultural season in Czechoslovakia

Gorbachev railroads through bill to gain sweeping powers over republics

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday imposed drastic curbs on the powers of Soviet republics and city councils when he railrodded through parliament a bill giving him the right to dismiss rebellious officials and workers. The bill was passed late in the day after it had failed to gain full parliamentary approval on a technicality. The issue was sent to the Constitutional Review Committee for arbitration, and it decided that the legislation had been approved.

In normal circumstances, for an order to be approved, a bill must receive more than half the votes of both chambers of the Soviet parliament (the Chamber of the Nationalities and the Chamber of the Union) even when the chambers are, as yesterday, in joint session. In the morning, the Chamber of the Nationalities gave the bill an overwhelming support. Deputies belonging to the Chamber of the Union rejected it by four votes but that chamber could barely raise a quorum. A better turn-out would have given approval at the first attempt.

The bill - "Ensuring the effectiveness of laws and other acts of Soviet legislation" - gives the president the right to replace state employees, from enterprise directors down to the most menial worker, if they implement republic laws that conflict with central legislation. It also limits the powers of local councils to implement policies that conflict with those of the centre.

While apparently not applying to elected representatives, such as

members of the Russian Federation parliament and local councilors, it effectively prevents them from pursuing policies at variance with those laid down by Moscow.

The measures were described as temporary, until the approval of a new union treaty to govern relations between the centre and the republics, but are regarded by deputies from the less tractable republics as tantamount to blackmail.

Yesterday's debate, although short, was heated. Some deputies argued that centralising measures of this nature were essential if the prevailing economic chaos were to be halted. Others argued that the proposed powers would only exacerbate an already tense situation in many republics. The bill placed the supposed rights of the union above the human rights of the individual. One deputy objected that no right of appeal was envisaged for officials and workers dismissed as a result of the proposed law. If their only recourse was to appeal to the president through the courts, recompense for unjust dismissal could take years.

The seriousness of the current political and economic situation in the country was only underlined yesterday with the publication of the official Communist party slogans setting the tone for the November 7 anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. The slogans, which are traditionally carried on placards through Red Square in Moscow and in the

parades in cities throughout the Soviet Union, are fewer and almost modest in their claims.

"Long live the 73rd anniversary of the great October socialist revolution!" reads the first slogan; followed by "Comrades, let us remain true to the ideals of October, and stand up for the name and cause of Lenin". In place of the rousing appeals to join with the world proletariat and survive for ever greater successes are calls for "consciousness and organised work" to bring in the market economy and "civil consensus" as the "only road to the future". Young people, many despairing of a future in their country and greatly impressed with foreign goods and values, are urged to "bear their Soviet citizenship with honour".

Although the military parade in Red Square is expected to proceed as usual, several cities, including the Azerbaijan capital, Baku, have already announced that they will not be holding parades because of the tense political situation. In the Estonian capital, Tallinn, and the Latvian capital, Riga, the military parade has been relegated to the outskirts, while elsewhere there are likely to be both official and alternative e parades as happened in Moscow last year.

● **Taaks for better:** Leaders of the Urals city of Sverdlovsk, a centre of the Soviet armaments industry, have reportedly been told by President Gorbachev that they may sell some of their products abroad in order to buy food and consumer goods. The supply situation in the city, which is closed to foreigners, is said to be extremely difficult, with rationing of many basic goods. Under the headline "Thanks for cigarettes", the newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said that the Sverdlovsk officials were given the assurance at a meeting with the president last week.

Sales of all military hardware have been heavily circumscribed hitherto, and a Soviet co-operative was severely criticised earlier this year for selling tanks abroad as scrap metal, even though it had a licence from the government. The concession to Sverdlovsk is likely to have been agreed by Mr Gorbachev in an attempt to reduce discontent in the city and win votes for his economic reform programme.

Sverdlovsk is the political fiefdom of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation's president, and its council is dominated by radical reformers who could have been expected to mobilise opposition to Mr Gorbachev's proposals both in the national and republic parliaments, as well as in Sverdlovsk.

● **Offer to EC:** The prime minister of Luxembourg, Jacques Santer, said yesterday that Moscow had offered a list of proposals for extensive co-operation with the European Community which would be considered at the Rome summit this weekend.

He would not confirm reports that the EC had cooled to the idea of large-scale assistance to the Soviet Union.

Warsaw Pact meeting postponed

Budapest - A Warsaw Pact summit scheduled to take place here next week to decide the fate of the Soviet bloc military alliance has been postponed, the Hungarian foreign ministry announced yesterday (Ernest Beck writes).

The summit is scheduled to discuss the possible dissolution of the pact or its transformation into a purely political organisation.

Janos Herman, the foreign ministry spokesman, said the delay was requested by the Soviet Union and was agreed by all six members of the pact. It seemed likely that the meeting will take place after the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe summit next month in Paris, when a conventional arms reduction treaty is expected to be signed. The Paris summit will also examine proposals for a new European security system, which will largely determine the future roles of both the Warsaw Pact and Nato.

The spokesman said that, though no concrete proposals for political union between pact members were to be tabled, "there does exist the framework of a future co-operation agreement".

Moscow would like to see its former allies linked in some kind of political and economic union. But there is disagreement among pact members about how to proceed and at what speed. Hungary announced in June that it intends to leave the pact by the end of 1991, the date when Soviet troops are to complete their withdrawal from the country. On Tuesday, President Havel of Czechoslovakia said he would like to see the pact military command dissolved within six months.

Despite the postponement, Hungary said that a meeting of the pact's disarmament committee, which is preparing the alliance's final negotiating position for the conventional arms treaty, will go ahead in Prague this weekend.

Congress delay

Johannesburg - The African National Congress announced that its national congress, scheduled for December for the first time in South Africa since the organisation was banned in 1960, has been postponed until next June. The ANC blamed delays in negotiations with the government for the return of as many as 20,000 exiles and the release of all political prisoners.

Spy chief sacked

Rome - Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, has sacked the country's chief of military intelligence. Signor Andreotti fired Admiral Fulvio Martini after the recent discovery of letters written by Aldo Moro, the assassinated Christian Democrat leader, in a flat supposedly searched ten years ago by agents of six state security organisations.

Disaster avoided

Basle - Some 200 firemen saved the Basle region from ecological catastrophe after two separate chemical spills here, police said. In the first incident, 520 gallons of chlorosulphonic acid spilled from a vat at a chemical factory. Later, 180 gallons of polyacrylic acid spilled from a German Railways tank wagon during shunting at Basle station. (AFP)

Kidnap report

Lima - The British embassy has confirmed that it has had reports that two Britons missing since June were kidnapped in Peru's upper Huallaga valley. Timothy Andrews and Michael Entwistle, both ornithologists aged 29, were on a backpacking tour when they disappeared near Tingo Maria, a stronghold of Maoist Shining Path terrorists.

Frigate review

Wellington - Mike Moore, New Zealand's prime minister, has announced that the government will review its multimillion-dollar contract to buy Australian-built frigates. His statement, just ahead of a general election, is likely to sour relations with Australia, which declined to comment before the poll. (AFP)

Editor for trial

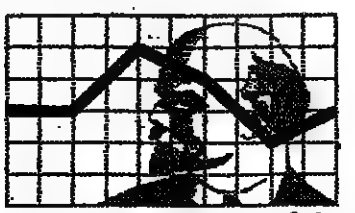
Jakarta - The editor of the *Monitor*, a tabloid newspaper, will stand trial for printing a popularity poll rating the Prophet Muhammad in eleventh place. The government earlier closed the paper after pressure from Muslim leaders and clashes between troops and young Muslims. (AFP)

Post-communist struggle to end housing misery

EWA, an unhappy Polish country girl, committed suicide in 1985, though her priest agreed to camouflage the cause of death and give her a decent burial. She was a victim of the housing conundrum that has crippled lives throughout Eastern Europe; she had come to Warsaw to look for a job, but without a flat she could not be given work, and without work she could not be assigned housing.

The girl answered a newspaper advertisement and, following the route of thousands of desperate job-seekers, became the mistress of an elderly man who offered a room in a wooden-boarded Warsaw tenement. He was unpleasant; she gassed herself in the kitchen.

The rules of housing registration are being eased in Polish cities, as part of the market revolution. But the problems that underpinned the strict, often cruel, laws continue to nag at the economies of Eastern Europe, sapping popular trust in the post-communist governments. The great cities hit by the Germans - Leningrad, Kiev, Warsaw - are particularly vulnerable. The reconstruction work after the war was one of the few



remarkable achievements of the centrally planned economy. But not even that mammoth concentration of resources could plug the hole left by such heavy bombardment. And then soon enough came the problems of modernisation and industrial growth: hundreds of thousands of Ewas drifting from the country to the cities (only the repressive city regulations kept them out), a baby boom, and fierce demand for hospitals, schools, roads. The system broke down.

Poland, for example, is now saddled with a housing waiting list of 1.2 million. In Warsaw, Lodz or Cracow the waiting time for a state-subsidised apartment can be anything between 60 and 80 years.

Even after a year in government, Alexander Paszynski, the Polish housing minister, is still

In the third extract from his book, *The Hard Road to the Market*, Roger Boyes reports on the tensions as Poland seeks to use privatisation as the way to cut a waiting list of 1.2 million for accommodation

convinced that privatisation is the only way out. He is far ahead of the rest of Eastern Europe in privatising the housing and construction industries.

The World Bank set out some guidelines for the Polish housing market: cut state subsidies, sell council flats, make rents realistic, commission local councils to scout out available building land, reduce energy consumption, and private, private, private. Mr Paszynski has lifted the restriction on owning more than one apartment or one building plot - clearing the way for developers in the Western mode - and has decisively shifted the pattern of housing away from rentals to private ownership.

Poles were offered a chance to buy full ownership of their co-operative apartments at low cost.

Now in Poland, as in Hungary, some 75 per cent of people own their apartments. There are about 330,000 houses under private construction in Poland.

But the biggest job is increasing production. Only some 120,000 new apartments a year are completed by the state builders - less than half the 1978 figure - and even if demand is choked by rising prices this can make only the merest dent on the waiting list.

During the past year, more than 20,000 new private building companies have been set up, most of them making materials. The larger state-owned companies are being broken into smaller units as a first step to privatisation. Most taxes on building materials have been lifted to encourage competition with state monopolies. But the reform is inchoate. Private glass

is still a state monopoly, window frames can be produced privately. The result: confusion on building sites when the wrong-sized glass arrives, or does not arrive at all.

Many are feeling the pinch of the liberated market. Prices are soaring in big cities. In the Warsaw district of Zoliborz, a large flat recently went for £300,000. Kensington prices. Polish families building their own houses have to stagger construction - the bathroom one year, kitchen the next. Because private capital reserves are trickling away, dreams have to be postponed. It takes on average seven years to build a house privately in Poland.

Poles have shown that they can accept daily price rises, a degree of inflation, in return for not queuing - but can they accept expensive housing? Will this be the breaking point for the government's privatisation policies?

Next: cars

The Hard Road to the Market is published by Secker and Warburg on October 29.

The Times Profile: David Mellor

Knowing his arts and Elgar

The guardians of Britain's cultural life can be sure of a sympathetic hearing from the former political roustabout turned mellow, music-loving minister

Minister for the arts is a thankless job. Most occupants fade quietly away having enjoyed a few years of free opera tickets. Everybody they meet at the opera complains that the government is either stingy or philistine, usually both. The arts lobby, rivaling the law and medicine in identifying its own good with the public weal, will never believe the minister's denial. The most popular arts ministers are those who, once a year, keep the subsidies in line with the rate of inflation, and for the other 11 months, leave the arts to themselves.

Richard Luce, Mr Mellor's predecessor, was admired for his dogged reticence in doing just this. Never seen as a high flier, he retired gracefully from the scene having protected his voracious clients from inflation — at least overall. David Mellor, the new minister for the arts, is a different political animal. He is ambitious personified, a typically Thatcherite hands-on politician. He admits that an arms-length job has its limitations, none so much as the arts, where a minister is trapped between the Treasury and the Arts Council, with its own well-known chairman and secretary general, Peter Palumbo and Anthony Everitt respectively. "The job is to win resources and let others spend them for you. There is a frustration attached to that," he says.

Mr Mellor's appointment was greeted with ambivalence by the subsidised arts lobby. The arts are not used to being landed with a go-getting young minister. Had he been brought in to slap their wrists and rein in their spending? Or was he a good thing, a man who wanted to make his mark by winning more money for an area of government activity to which he is personally committed?

Mr Mellor has now just finished his first ever public-speaking round amid reports that the Treasury chief secretary, Norman Lamont, who was exceptionally generous to Mr Luce last year, has driven a much tougher bargain. With the next handout doubtless coming immediately before an election, plus the possibility of a few rescue packages in the interim, Mr Lamont has felt Mr Mellor can take the heat for the time being. "The arts will turn up that heat for sure."

How Mr Mellor reacts will be an intriguing guide to the future of one of Mrs Thatcher's more rumbustious lieutenants. Mr Mellor does at least listen. Despite his often abrasive manner, he is prepared to change his mind if the

arguments are persuasive. The Broadcasting Bill, which starts its last two days' debate in the House of Commons today, has been an instance of this. At the beginning, the broadcasters were prepared to hate Mr Mellor much as they hated the initial draft. Seven hundred amendments later, Mr Mellor's political courage and new-found emolence have made him oddly endearing. The broadcasting lobby can live with the bill, and was able to work with the man. He listens as much as he talks, although he talks a lot.

A surprising fan of Mr Mellor's is Simon Albury, director of the Campaign for Quality Television. "I formed a great admiration and affection for him. Once he knows that you're not going to mess around and you're on top of the subject, he's genuinely receptive. He has this great appetite for debate and discussion and is prepared to be swayed by rational argument." Almost all the changes for which the Campaign fought were eventually conceded. So grateful were they that they held a dinner in the minister's honour in July.

Mr Mellor did not like the first draft of the Broadcasting Bill either, but because it had been drawn up by a predecessor at the Home Office at the instigation of the prime minister, he had to tread carefully. He decided that he should be seen to be conceding to the Campaign for Quality Television rather than the ITV companies, which the prime minister hates. One broadcaster claims he "outwitted Downing Street". A long-time fellow minister at the Home Office, agrees that "he took on Number Ten head on. More craven creatures would not have done so." Robin Corbett, Mr Mellor's shadow, says that "he held his breath on some occasions and thought, 'am I going to get away with this?'" "Get away with it he has."

Mr Mellor's political recklessness derives in part from his knowledge that his comparative political wetness makes elevation into the cabinet unlikely. At the last reshuffle, he was cruelly overtaken by the dogged Peter Lilley. But Mr Mellor is of the Nigel Lawson school, believing there is more to life than politics. "Everyone assumes that when you're in politics you'll just do what you're told, that it's an extension of school. It isn't. Most of us could actually live very comfortably lives without being ministers." Now 41, he is already in his tenth year as a minister. "I have an intense desire to prove that there's a life after politics and I want to get there while I'm still



Mellor in his office yesterday: 'I have an intense desire to prove there is a life after politics'

young enough to have some of it."

David Mellor was born in Swanage, Dorset, the son of a schoolmaster. He lost no time in winning his political spurs. At 15, while still at grammar school, he was elected vice-chairman of the Dorset Young Conservatives. At Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read law, he became chairman of the university Conservative association (and worked as a deckchair attendant in Swanage during his vacations). When he came down and went to the Bar, he was vice-chairman of the Chelsea Tories and he soon became a personal assistant to Jeffrey Archer, then still an MP. At this time he met his wife, Judith Hall, a feisty lady firm enough to keep his bumptiousness in check.

After failing to win West Bromwich East in 1974, Mr Mellor snatched Putney in 1979, while still under 30, from a former Labour arts minister, Hugh Jenkins. Gentrification has since made the seat relatively safe. Within two years, he was in government, at the department of energy and then at the Foreign Office, where he was dubbed "Mellor the Mouth" by *The Sun* after an angry outburst at conditions in the Gaza Strip. The Foreign Office, however, was little perturbed: as Lord Carrington, Douglas Hurd and William Waldegrave have all discovered, the embarrassment of ministers in Israel is a longstanding Foreign Office blood-sport. "We were not entirely unhappy," says a diplomat.

A minister's life and reputation are determined not so much by MPs or the public but by the relationship he strikes up with officials. Popular at the Foreign Office for his enthusiasm for work and talent for publicity, Mr Mellor found a less receptive audience at the Home Office. His abrasiveness told on many officials. He gave some civil servants dressings-down from which they returned pale-faced with anger. Nor did they like his often craven attitude to the media, not so much deliberately made as slip on normal Whitehall house-training. He is vain to the point of ringing up newspapers to complain that he is not a "junior" minister, but a minister of state.

Like many politicians, Mr Mellor can display a manic desire

to be the centre of attention, and is quite prepared to make a fool of himself in order to win publicity. When minister for health, he was happy to let *The Times* take a photograph of him lying on his office carpet in shirt, tie and glasses, with his legs in the air, looking like a dying dog. He enjoys causing a stir, but unlike, say, Edwin Currie, he calculates carefully first. "I've always known when something I was doing was going to be a bit controversial. It's never come as a surprise to me." He laughs uproariously. "Some people light the blue touchpaper without realising quite the explosive charge."

He did so once, and it has sobered him up enormously. Two years ago, as minister of state for health, wounding up the "teeth and specs" charges debate, he rounded so savagely on his own back-benchers, notably the midsom-manned Terry Hayes, that the executive of the 1922 Committee felt moved to complain to the prime minister.

'If there were more people like him in the arts, we would be a lot better off'

John Wilson of the LPO

Mr Mellor now admits: "I'm really mortified by it. I just read it wrong. I'm capable of learning my lessons: this was a further step up the learning curve." According to a colleague, it was "his parliamentary Rubicon". Today, two years on, a political antagonist, Labour's Robin Corbett has noticed the change: "He was a sharp-tongued street fighter before, but it was all smooth, purring noises throughout the bill. He's stopped being a hooligan." David Mellor is a doer, not a thinker. Pressed on the principles he believes in, he can come up with no more than, "In a democracy good people have to get involved in politics. It should not just be left to the chancers and

Bernard Levin's column will appear tomorrow.

Quite, but what about Kuwait?

Edward Heath spent much of his time with Saddam Hussein not discussing hostages but answering questions on the likely impact of Britain's entry into the ERM, according to the former prime minister's staff.

"It was the most widely discussed topic," says Robert Vaudrey, Heath's personal assistant, who became a familiar sight on television news during the mission. "The Iraqis' knowledge of the British political situation was incredible. They were commenting on British newspaper articles and internal policy debates in the Conservative party. Saddam's people quizzed us in particular on pieces by Norman Stone in *The Sunday Times*."

Part of the reason lies in the fact that many of Saddam's senior aides were educated in Britain. "His chief negotiator, with whom we spent a lot of time, spoke perfect English," says Vaudrey. "It was unnerving. Then he revealed that he was a post-graduate student in English literature at Birmingham University."

While reactions to Heath's role remain mixed, Vaudrey, who was seen during the visit answering questions from the media in his Baghdad bedroom dressed only in boxer shorts, can have done himself nothing but good from the trip. One of his first questions when he stepped from the plane at Gatwick airport was the closing date for applications for the Tory candidature at Blaby, which Nigel Lawson is to vacate at the general election.

Heath's first request on his

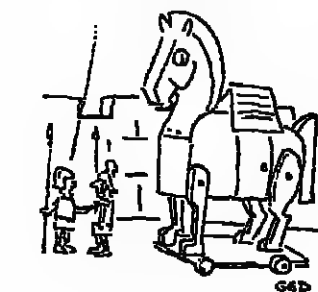
return was more mundane, for a good, English cuppa. Not that his party were on rations in Baghdad. They report that they were wined and dined like royalty, with no a trace, at least in the presidential palace, of sanctions biting. Saddam, however, was under the constant watchful eye of armed minders and all his food was sampled before he ate, a facility denied to Heath.

Vaudrey says: "Mr Heath asked Dr Jeffrey Easton, who came out with us to tend to the hostages, if he would perform such a service, but he blanched at the prospect. I can't imagine why."

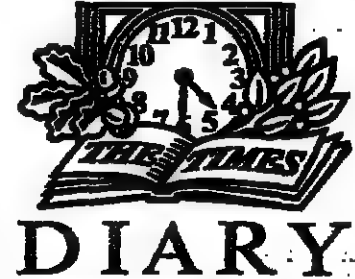
Old as the hills

There's no cliché like an old cliché, as Erasmus's own copy of his book of proverbs, *Adagia*, proves. Unknown until now to scholars, the book,

That's straight from the horse's mouth.



published in 1523, is covered with Erasmus's manuscript annotations. "It will be a major new source," says Dr Susan Wharton of Sotheby's, which next month auctions the manuscript for an estimated £250,000. It contains



some 2,500 lines scribbled by Erasmus in the margin of the text, adding approximately 60 pages to the previously known work. "His scribbles include new proverbs and biographical comments," says Wharton, "as well as comments on his reading."

The discovery throws further light on the ancient lineage of many proverbs still in everyday usage. To call a spade a spade, to have one foot in the grave, and to blow one's own trumpet are but three traced by Erasmus to Latin and Greek sources. Well knock me down with a feather, as Socrates might have said.

Victorious

Four national arts companies will get together on January 6 to celebrate the life and achievements of Lillian Baylis, the woman who created the Vic-Wells Company and reopened Sadler's Wells 60 years ago. The National Theatre, the English National Opera, the Royal Ballet and the Birmingham Royal Ballet will each contribute to a twelfth-night evening at Baylis's Sadler's Wells, where all originated.

None has yet finalised details of its performance, but the works on

Make councils responsible

The arts need more than central government funding and sponsorship: Denis Forman believes support can best be provided by local authorities

The present crisis in the performing arts and in the world of art galleries and museums is as yet unrecognised by the public, and although known to the government, it has shown no signs of facing up to it. The problem is simple. The cost of the arts is increasing at a rate higher than that of the resources available.

There are three main sources of revenue for the arts. First, central government. The Treasury will never increase an allocation to a spending department except by the exercise of a political imperative. No matter how persuasive the arts minister may be — and our present minister is exceptionally persuasive — if he is a lone voice he will get no better treatment than Oliver Twist.

Even with a change of government or a change of prime minister, we are not going to see any sudden transformation. We must be realistic: even with an arts friendly government, proper support for the status quo is the best we can hope for, and even that will require a huge capital sum and an increase in expenditure above the rate of inflation.

The second source of funds for the arts is the private sector. A great advance has been made in recent years in persuading industry and commerce to spend money on sponsorship. But the sponsor is a fickle paymaster; he will not commit for any length of time ahead, and when profits fall, as they are doing almost universally this year, prestige advertising, i.e. sponsorship, is one of the first items to be cut.

Box-office is the oldest, most enduring and most reliable source of revenue, but even for the subsidised arts the box office can be a dangerous friend. If a repertory company runs into hard times, the pantomime season will be extended at the expense of Chekhov and Shaw. Box-office has other limitations. If it is pushed too far, it empties the house or distorts the purpose of subsidy by making attendance the prerogative of the rich.

If none of the present sources of funds is going to save the day for the arts, where else can we look for help? I believe that in the long run there is one source whose contribution is invaluable and largely overlooked, and which has great potential for the future. The Arts Council this year is spending £175 million on the arts. Local authorities collectively are spending something between £175 million and nearly £300 million. I can see no logic in having two overlapping systems pumping oxygen into the arts across the nation, one with a single engine sited in Westminster, the other with a number of regional pumps. Surely there is a need for some rationalisation between the Arts Council, cities, boroughs and counties?

To those of us who have lived and worked outside London, the Luce plan appeared to be a great leap forward. It sought to devolve the central grant-giving power of the Arts Council to regional councils upon which would sit representatives of arts in the region and local authorities (although the local authorities were to be in the minority, and the strings were still to be held by London). It is easy to be cynical about the concept of our local authorities fathering the arts in their own regions and in their own areas, but in my dealings with them over the arts — and in particular with three successive town clerks of Manchester — I have found them to be more

positive, more businesslike and more effective than their counterparts in London, where the Arts Council is becoming the creature of the Office of Arts and Libraries and the OAL is under the thumb of the Treasury. We can look only to local authorities for the money we need.

An enlightened government could give local authorities statutory responsibility for the arts, along with health, housing and the like. This is a short step to take and the Labour party is already committed to it. It would transform the situation at a stroke, for it would make arts expenditure in councils over the country eligible for rate support grant. It would legitimise expenditure which some councils now feel to be outside the true remit of local government, and when the Treasury raises its banshee voice and points to the increase in the local government budget, the minister for the arts could truthfully reply that a pound spent on the arts through local government must go at least twice as far as a pound spent directly from London, for the rate support grant currently pays for 46p in every pound spent by local authorities. There is nothing outlandish or even novel in the idea of the prime responsibility for arts funding being assumed by municipalities and regions. In France, 55 per cent of arts money is found in this way, in Germany 90 per cent.

Once statutory status for the arts in local government is achieved, and once the equilibrium is restored after the devastating effect of the poll tax, in addition to supporting the arts in its own parish, each authority would make a contribution to the regional boards outlined in the Luce plan. The arts take little account of civic boundaries: the Halls plays in Nottingham, Leeds, Harrogate and Newcastle; the Crucible in Sheffield serves a clientele spread over a dozen local authorities. We have seen what Glasgow and Birmingham can do: why should this spirit not spread to other authorities and other regions?

At the heart of this sketch for the future is the idea that the locally elected representatives of the people should gradually take over from ministers the responsibility for cherishing and developing the arts across the nation. In the light of this, the minister's recent decision himself to appoint the chairman of the regional boards can only be seen as perverse, cutting as it does across the whole principle of devolution and setting the scene for a Whitehall controlled ministry of the arts. No matter how eminent and meritorious the minister's chairman may be, he cannot be accountable both to the arts in his region and to the minister in the metropolis. The danger is that he will be seen not as the friend and champion of the regional arts community, but as a copper's mark.

This does mean, of course, that central Arts Council presence and funding would fall away over the years, and that its function would be transformed from that of paymaster and central executive to that of monitor, critic and friend; a role not altogether unlike that of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools.

Sir Denis Forman is deputy chairman of the Royal Opera House and deputy chairman of Granada Group. This is an abridged version of his *Mind Lecture* delivered at Manchester University last night.

offer are likely to include extracts from Britten's *Peter Grimes*, which received its premiere at the documentary. Doran took Yershov from Moscow to Prague expecting Dubcek, now chairman of the Federal assembly, to shake hands and agree to bury the past.

"Instead," says Doran, "it took three visits to set up the meeting. When it was finally held, Dubcek accepted the apology but refused to offer his forgiveness. No matter how many times the general said he was sorry, Dubcek said he just could not forgive. Yershov was absolutely distraught."

Pitt the first?

With the Tories still crowing over the selection of their first black woman parliamentary candidate this week, Labour may be about to trump them with the first black member of the shadow cabinet.

Labour peers are about to elect their representative in the shadow cabinet. Among the three candidates is the 77-year-old Lord Pitt of Hampstead, the first black peer.

Pitt, a Grenada-born former GP and tireless race relations campaigner, is opposed by Lord Dean of Beswick and Lady Ewart-Biggs. Of his prospects — victory would almost certainly guarantee him a cabinet post if Labour forms the next government — he merely says: "May the best man or woman win."

If that man proves to be Pitt, what remains of Labour's Bennis left will be in an ideological quandary. While it campaigns vigorously for black representation at the highest levels of the party, it surely did not anticipate the breakthrough coming in the unexpected House of Lords.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

If someone tried to ram an unyielding, obtrusive howdah up your backside and keep it in situ for an hour and a half, you would have every right to be angry. The friends with whom I spent the weekend in a village on the Dutch/German border rented me a bicycle and told me we were going on a 20km Saturday afternoon spin. As they were my hosts, and I have ever tried to be a good guest, I heard myself say: "That is really kind of you."

I swung my leg over the crossbar, let the sodas engage painfully in my seat and did a preliminary circuit of their forecourt, in the course of which I noticed that the bike had no brakes. "Pity, after all the trouble you have taken," I said. "You go on and I'll stay and prepare the mussels for dinner."

Apparently my bike had a back-pedal braking device that I would find easier, less distracting than grips and levers attached to the handlebar. "Really thoughtful," I said to my hosts.

To relate that I jumped to the stirrups would be an overstatement, but I got on the velocipede and I pedalled, my host pedalled and his wife pedalled also, were Ghent not in Belgium, there could have been an opportunity for a witty remark. I had, as a boy, a bike called James; it was not I who thought of the name, it was painted on the frame. Mine was a James Bicycle, made by a company that went to the wall long before it was fashionable for companies to go bankrupt. In those green and salad days of my youth there was more time to do things than is available today and I spent many hours polishing the spokes and making James shine generally.

When I was 14 I rode my bike from London to Walberswick — where my parents had a house, as I do now. The distance was 98 miles (thanks to by-passes it is currently 120, rising) and when I reached the Suffolk coast after an 11-hour journey, I felt differently about James, used it less and less, and some time after that it was stolen. I went to the police station in Southwold, told them of the theft and

explained that their detectives would have no difficulty finding it for the top of one of the spokes on the rear wheel, one quite close to the valve, was terminally rust-affected. The police laughed. I began to feel differently about the police.

A year ago my younger daughter gave me a bike that fits into the boot of a car. I fitted it into mine. One day, in a disastrous northern hinterland-of-Oxford-Street traffic jam, I left the Rover Stirling at the side of the road, opened the boot, assembled the bike and rode off to my appointment, chortling as I went, though I did notice that other drivers treated me with the sort of consideration I accord cyclists when I am behind the wheel, but I made my meeting on time. When it was over, I went downstairs to find the bike stolen (nothing changes) and when I reached my car it had been clamped. (Some things do change, not necessarily for the better.)

While wishing that designers undertake another, altogether more sympathetic assessment of the contours of a saddle, cycling is wonderful, and cycling in Holland is quite brilliant, for Holland is flat: look where you will, you can see a landing strip or a cricket pitch without recourse to excavators. Take with you a couple of telephone directories, stand on them and you have a view, more like A View.

And in Holland, unlike in central London, the cyclist is king. People there drive past cyclists the way we drive past horses, and when one chap on a bike meets another, which is a very frequent occurrence, they say good day, in Dutch. The more basic your bike the heartier is the "good day" (in Dutch) that you get.

"I really enjoyed that trip," I said to my host — spontaneously, nothing to do with trying to be a good guest — and I asked him if it was safe to own a bicycle in the Netherlands.

Well, he said, there were instances of cycle theft, but on the whole when bikes have no gears and only a back-pedal brake, one doesn't have too much trouble.



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SUMMIT WITHOUT A CAUSE

The European Community's "emergency summit" this weekend deserves to be a sham. This is a summit without a cause, convened mainly because the French and the Irish, incumbents of the European Community's six-month rotating presidency, also held two summits rather than one. The whole affair is such an embarrassment that the president of the Commission, Jacques Delors, is insisting that the meeting is not a European Council, merely an "extraordinary meeting" of heads of government.

The excuse Italy found for summoning Mrs Thatcher and her 11 colleagues to Rome, the alleged need for instant decisions on aid to the Soviet Union, has receded into never-never land before anybody boards a plane. M Delors will present a Commission report on the Soviet economy and everybody will change the subject. To what?

M Delors is as eager as Mrs Thatcher to avoid discussion of European monetary union, rightly sensing that to accede to French and German demands to set a firm date for the second stage would mean a battle royal, ending the tacit truce that followed Britain's entry into the exchange-rate mechanism. Mrs Thatcher's attitude is brisk. If the Italians want a summit, she will give them one, on Europe's weak-kneed response in the Gulf and, more immediately, on the scandal of the EC's inability to face down its farmers. The Council of Ministers' continuing refusal to accept cuts in agricultural subsidies is sabotaging the Gatt's Uruguay Round of trade talks. Helmut Kohl, facing a general election he can hardly lose, is determined to keep his kowtowing to German farmers off the agenda. The Commission has offered an ingenious under-the-table deal to the Germans, promising them that it will quietly ensure that the final Gatt deal leaves German farmers as richly subsidised as ever.

That, hopes M Delors, will secure last-minute agreement by ministers in Luxembourg tomorrow, thus removing the topic from the summit agenda. He knows that continued deadlock gives Mrs Thatcher an excellent weapon for ridiculing his high-flown plans for political union. Mrs Thatcher should stick to her guns. Frank talk on the Gatt, and concrete

results, might justify the weekend trip to Rome.

As for political and monetary union, these are the topics for the regular European Council in seven weeks' time, not to mention the two intergovernmental conferences which begin then. Since national positions are far from clear, heads of government can make little headway. While the Twelve need to bring some coherence to their ragged policies on the Gulf, to give political union pride of place this weekend would only strengthen what is now a Europe-wide exasperation with the Italian presidency, a byword for visionary utterances and disorganisation to rival that which marked the Greeks' occupancy of the EC chair.

The Italian government has peppered member-states with new proposals, all intended to speed progress to a federal Europe. Yet when joint action was called for, the EC has rarely functioned so unsteadily. Ministers and officials alike complain that meetings are convened without evident purpose, without preparation, chaired with a lack of clarity or knowledge of the matter to hand. Italian positions often derive from the narrowly nationalistic need to keep Italy's shaky coalition government together.

The Italians are by no means the first to use their precious six months in the chair to dream great dreams and reach for some grand new European "initiative". If the Twelve run out of conversation in Rome, they might ask what purpose these rotating presidencies, with their short deadlines for "historic achievements", impart to EC business. With 12 members, each country's turn comes only every six years; matters will be worse when, as all agree it must, the Community admits new members from central and eastern Europe.

This highly nationalistic system is a comment on how the arteries of the Community are already beginning to harden, way ahead of any fanciful measures of political union. The Twelve should at least agree to stop their costly caravans from wandering round the capitals of Europe, like a Field of the Cloth of Gold in permanent session. Summits, when needed, should take place in Brussels. The only action demanded this weekend is over Gatt. Action there should be.

A COOL VIEW OF WARMING

Has the conventional wisdom got global warming all wrong? Scientists appear convinced, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last May, that mean temperatures will rise to between 1.4 and 2.8 degrees above pre-industrial levels within 40 years. If greenhouse gases are not limited, yesterday's report by Professor Martin Parry of Birmingham University duly suggests that global food output will drop by 20-30 per cent by 2030 as a result of this warming, if nothing is done to counteract it.

Certainly some countries will gain, including those such as Britain where most people would probably prefer a warmer climate. The Ukraine will become hugely productive. Britain will produce more, and more varied, food, with maize, grapes, perhaps even bananas sprouting from the slopes of the Cotswolds. But the United States and Canada, present source of much of the world's grain, will suffer a fall in output, as will much of Africa. Some parts of the globe will become near uninhabitable. Others will only be inhabited at great inconvenience.

Professor Parry accepts that such estimates, like any based on computers, are fraught with reservations — not least the reservation that eager doomwatchers may choose to ignore the reservations. Worst-case scenarios should be taken with a pinch of salt.

For instance, the Parry predictions take little account of changes in agricultural technology, an oversight that hardly squares with history. Man has far more control over nature than the computers recognise. Water tables in the Midwest of America may fall and farmers face ruin, as they do in much of Africa. But how much of this is the result, not of climatic change, but of poor husbandry, ultimately of poor politics?

Humans have themselves destroyed much of the world's environment, notably by deforestation. Humans have also wrenched from that environment huge gains in productivity. New plants, perhaps less dependent on water, can be developed. New regions can be brought into cultivation. New political

regimes can arise. The demise of communism offers the world an incalculable but possibly massive increase in agricultural production. The process of adjustment may be uncomfortable, but nothing, not even a scientific prediction, ever stands still. What humankind can destroy, it can also mend.

But at a cost. The chief recent intruder into the global warming debate has been economics. In *The Times* yesterday, Professor Wilfred Beckerman reminded the ecologists that environmental policies have costs as well as benefits. The sensible scientist, the sensible citizen, constantly weighs these costs and benefits to see where the balance of policy should lie. Economists of the Beckerman school point out bluntly that cutting carbon dioxide emissions is expensive. Cutting them enough to make a substantive impact on global warming, assuming they are the key determinant of it, would be hugely expensive. It might — only might — be better to change farm policy so that the harmful impact of global warming can be reduced in other ways: for instance by improving farm productivity or assisting people to migrate to newly fertile areas.

Policies involving widespread environmental change usually have a more severe impact on the poor than on the rich. Who are the rich to say that the poor must suffer a reduction in prosperity so as to cool down the globe, rather than use that prosperity to mitigate the disbenefits of warming, or even enjoy its side benefits?

The answer is that nobody really knows, but everybody is entitled to plunge into the debate. The scientists have performed their task by telling the world what the world is like, how it is changing, how it might change if certain conditions obtain. The economists are rightly identifying the costs involved in adjusting this process. Neither has an interest in environmental hysteria. Both have an interest in reasoned argument. The final decision rests, thank goodness, not with either discipline, but with an informed electorate.

KINNOCK'S REVENGE

How Labour changes. Just three years ago, Bryan Gould was the darling of the parliamentary party. In the 1987 shadow cabinet ballot, in which all Labour MPs vote, Mr Gould came top, followed in second place by John Prescott. Yesterday, these two came second last and last, respectively. Had the shadow cabinet not been enlarged last year, they might have been dropped altogether. So imbued with discipline is Neil Kinnock's new-style Labour party that to cross the leader these days is to court unpopularity.

Both Mr Gould and Mr Prescott voted against Mr Kinnock's position on defence in the national executive committee (NEC) last month. They were joined by Joan Lester, Jo Richardson, Margaret Beckett and Robin Cook. The rebels' behaviour was mostly seen as an opportunistic attempt to court left-wing votes from constituency delegates at the next day's election to the NEC. MPs thought the shadow cabinet rebels were putting themselves before their party, and punished them accordingly. Miss Lester was voted out of the shadow cabinet altogether. Ms Richardson fell from seventh to fifteenth place.

Only Mrs Beckett and Mr Cook were left unscathed. This is partly because both have put in such a good performance in their shadow cabinet jobs during the summer, partly because, unlike the others, their rebelliousness was thought to be truly conscientious. Mrs Beckett is a reformed left-winger, who now wins votes from the right wing of the party for her firm stand on (future) public spending. Gone are the days, it seems, when ideologi-

cal purity was the path to success in Labour party elections. This year's elections have seen ideology submerged in zest for power. Those who did well — John Smith, Gordon Brown, Gerald Kaufman, Jack Straw — are technocrats. So is Ann Taylor, an able politician with no noticeable political stance, who has entered the frontbench team for the first time. A recent Gallup poll for the *Daily Telegraph* showed a remarkable absence of public dislike or distrust for members of the shadow cabinet. In the 1960s, such polls discovered large numbers antagonised by George Brown. Tony Benn had the same effect on voters in the early 1970s. In this month's poll, all the shadow cabinet members in the sample won positive ratings: more people thought they were an asset to the party than a liability.

No party left in opposition for more than a decade can hope to command the public recognition that is accorded to a governing team. Experience is always against it. If this shadow cabinet were to form the next administration, it would be more lacking in ministerial experience than any government since the war. Mr Kinnock's particular handicap, sheer lack of track record in the ruling business, will always set him at a disadvantage to Margaret Thatcher. But Mr Kinnock must at least be credited with turning some handicaps to gain. He has shown he can defeat his extremists, discipline any incipient rebellion, reward hard work and keep trouble (notably in local Labour groups) well out of sight. No Tory can be in any doubt that he is becoming a formidable opponent.

Sending the right message on Aids

From the Chairman of the National Family Trust

Sir, After lamenting the misdirected £32 million publicity campaign of the last four years concerning HIV-Aids, Thomas Prentice's advice to the Minister of Health ("Aids: this time send the right message", October 17) about the next phase of public education is far too flabby.

HIV infection in this country and the USA is now known to be a multi-wave epidemic. There are no clear grounds for presuming that the known cases of heterosexual transmission are anything other than early markers of an exponential growth pattern which will overtake the combined homosexual and intravenous drug abuse cases in about 30 years' time.

That is, unless we change our sexual behaviour markedly. Given the often long-delayed onset of symptoms, there are now sexual acts going back to 1980, not 1987 when public health campaigning began.

Since HIV gravely threatens our reproductive functions, society needs enough young people who know for sure that they are free from infection. Hence "safer sex", which is all that the condom culture provides, is far too complacent for public campaigns. From a psychological perspective, the careless hedonism which it implies further undermines the secure male/female bonding which cultures need to survive.

We could learn from Zambia with a call for "One man, one woman, for life". We might even dare to tell each other that "Abstinence and chastity are OK", or to challenge our young people with "No intercourse before marriage".

Prudential ethics, let alone any other moral tradition, now actually demands such precepts if we really care about the future and about sexual fulfilment without fear. Over to you, Mrs Bottomley, lest HIV succeeds in taking much of the pleasure and all of the security out of sex.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHITFIELD,
Chairman,
National Family Trust,
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
October 18.

Soldiers in the Gulf

From Major-General John Strawson

Sir, Your front-page picture (October 19) of two British soldiers, supposedly on patrol, yet totally unarmoured in dress, bearing or alertness will have done nothing to make the nation proud of the British Army or the Army proud of itself. Indeed, it puts in mind of Wellington's comment in 1809 on seeing a draft of troops sent to fight in Spain: "I don't know what effect these men will have upon the enemy, but, by God, they terrify me."

What can your people or the Army's public relations staff have been thinking of? What is needed to redress this error of taste and judgment is a picture of troops operationally deployed in the desert ready for action — if action be needed — and preferably of my own regiment, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

Yours,
JOHN STRAWSON,
The Old Rectory, Boyton,
Warminster, Wiltshire.

Uses of Latin

From Mr N. J. Munday

Sir, How sad that Mr Robin Wilson (Education, October 15) thinks that his pupils have a broader curriculum with two modern languages than with one plus Latin.

Latin is not just language work, though it should aid the development of language skills and of information technology too. It should also introduce pupils to literature and classical history. They need to encounter heroes as well as keyboards and tackle great issues — politics, love, war and death — as well as ordinary day-to-day communication.

Mr Wilson's pupils (apart from his élite) may have lots of skills, but they will be missing out on humanities.

Yours faithfully,
NICK MUNDAY
(Head of Classics),
The Manchester Grammar School,
Manchester 13,
October 18.

Clergy assessment

From Canon Ellis Slack

Sir, The idea of clergy assessment/appraisal is not new (report October 15; letters, October 19). Many individuals and teams have, for a number of years, voluntarily undergone assessment in order to better to fulfil their vocations and objectives (I am not referring to spiritual direction, which is an allied but quite different discipline).

What is new is the proposed relationship of job security and assessment. While the proposal may be welcomed by many, it will cause considerable anxiety unless and until they know the criteria for assessment.

Will competence be judged on the ability to raise money, create a mutual admiration society of the like-minded, twang a guitar, twirl a shuribell? Assessment and the criteria for it raise questions of a fundamental nature. What is a priest? What is he supposed to be doing?

In a broad Church, such as the C

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Classic' defects of Court of Appeal

From the chairman of the executive committee of Justice

Sir, Sir Frederick Lawton's article, "Judgments without prejudice" (The Law, October 22), fails to answer the charges laid at the door of the Court of Appeal.

There have been many more miscarriages of justice established in the past 20 years than the three which he mentions. There are six reported cases of appeals being allowed because the judges had a "harking doubt" about the appellant's guilt, as well as some 16 appeals allowed after a reference back by the Home Secretary. At least three of these have arisen from the BBC's *Rough Justice* series.

Moreover, the Home Secretary paid out nearly £1 million to 60 persons proved to have been wrongly imprisoned in the years 1980-7. Justice estimates that there are at least 15 cases of wrongful imprisonment each year.

The reason why the Court of Appeal frequently fails to detect these is because of its self-imposed limitations: it will not consider the failings of lawyers, and is really only concerned to correct procedural irregularities.

Sir Frederick refers to the Luton Post Office murder case as one in which the court held that there had been no miscarriage of justice. In fact, that case was a classic example of the defects of the present system; after no less than four unsuccessful references back, on which the court concentrated on procedural issues rather than the substantial question of guilt or innocence, the Home Secretary remitted the sentences of the two men concerned.

The point of an independent tribunal is that it should operate without these shackles. It would look at everything, the conduct of the investigators, prosecution and defence, as well as admissible and inadmissible evidence, and should be free to pursue its own inquiries. Its object would be to get at the truth — something which, as Sir Frederick implicitly acknowl-

edges, is not the role of the Court of Appeal.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM GOODHART,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
Justice,
95a Chancery Lane, WC2.

From Mr C. G. P. Lakeman

Sir, Your report (October 23) of the Court of Appeal case of *In re J (a Minor)* is indicative of the feeble protection afforded by our law to the handicapped. These people, in my experience, show the ably-bodied what courage and resilience mean; no wonder they demonstrate on the streets for their rights if the Court of Appeal can approve medical action which fails to prevent death.

The Master of the Rolls felt unable to accept the propositions advanced by the Supreme Court of British Columbia, namely:

It is not appropriate for an external decision-maker to apply his standards of what constitutes a liveable life and exercise the right to impose death if that standard is not met in his estimation.

This is not the first time our courts have refused to follow sound reasoning from Canadian superior tribunals. In a number of cases which have come before English courts regarding sterilising handicapped girls, our judges rejected out of hand the meticulous approach of the Supreme Court of Canada, a court which had had the benefit of counsel from the Canadian Law Commission on the ethical implications of this area of medical practice and the law.

It is high time that there was some permanent body to consider these issues and to issue reasoned advice before the cases arise. The Court of Appeal has yet again shown that it is ill-fitted to be guardian of the handicapped's rights and, further, that our society's reaction to handicap is profoundly immoral.

I am, Sir, yours etc.,
CHRISTOPHER LAKEMAN,
393a Wandsworth Road, SW8.

Fees and justice

From Mr Niall Morison

Sir, There is much to be welcomed in your leader (October 22) "Justice v lawyers" and the views about extending access to justice are to be supported. However, some misinformation in it concerning hourly rates should be corrected.

In the crown court more than 70 per cent of all work undertaken by barristers is subject to a standard fee agreed between the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Bar Council. There is only one area in which an hourly rate applies and that is to attendance at consultations etc., which in the

criminal field is a relatively small amount of work.

All standard fees agreed between the Lord Chancellor and the Bar in the last three years have been at a level below the relevant rate of inflation. It is precisely because there are standard fees that the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Treasury have been able to exercise control. What they cannot and should not be able to control is the right of the individual to have access to justice.

Yours faithfully,
NIALL MORISON
(Deputy Chief Executive),
The General Council of the Bar,
11 South Square, Gray's Inn, WC1,
October 23.

Piracy protest

From Mr Robin Harper

Sir, Your leader, "In praise of piracy" (October 23), is deliberately misleading. Counterfeiting is a criminal offence and Parliament has created a specific offence of fraudulent use of a trade mark.

The modern scourge of counterfeiting affects not only the luxury goods which the leader maligns, but also automotive and aviation spare parts, pharmaceuticals, agricultural chemicals and electrical goods and components where dangerous and substandard products present a real threat to consumers' safety.

Trade marks are the consumer's guarantee that if the goods do not come up to scratch he knows where to complain and who in a legal sense is "liable" for the

product. Criminals do not pay tax on their profits, nor do they have to ensure their counterfeit products conform with safety and hygiene standards. Those who condone this illicit trade often support organized criminals who are laundering money from other illegal activities such as drug-trafficking.

Counterfeiting is theft: of reputation, profits and goodwill. It does not make it any less a crime because the theft is from companies who by definition have achieved good profits by the establishment, often over many years, of a valuable brand name.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HARPER (Chairman),
The Anti-Counterfeiting Group Ltd,
32 High Street,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Berlin foresight

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, You ask who, even two years ago, would have foreseen the demolition of the Berlin Wall ("Not without honour", leading article, October 16). The answer is Anatoly Golitsyn, in his book, *New Lies for Old* (p.340).

Golitsyn defected in 1961, and his book was published in the UK in 1984, a year before Mikhail Gorbachev reached the top. As a former KGB deception specialist, Golitsyn also foresaw the return of Sakharov and Dubcek, the liberalisation in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He didn't need a crystal ball to foresee the great deception exercise of the past few years. What he could not foresee was that the exercise would get out of control.

Yours very truly,
BRIAN CROZIER,
303 The Linen Hall,
162-166 Regent Street, W1.

Plimsoll line

From Mr A. P. S. de Redman

Sir, Mrs M. Evans, writing on the dearth of plimsolls (October 22), has identified a wider problem. Recently I decided to buy something to play the large number of records that clutter up my sitting-room. Imagine, if you would, the incredulous stares of the various shop assistants when I asked to see some record players!

What I eventually brought home is called "a stack". It provides wireless, tape and record player with a console that would not look out of place on the flight deck of Concorde. All very sleek and glamorous looking, but I should prefer a simple record player.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN DE REDMAN,
Flat 1, 283 Giltot Road,
Rotton Park, Birmingham,
October 22.

requesting a security of tenure for the incumbents, and not the clergy themselves.

My disquiet stems from the fact that those ordained to follow the life of Christ seem not to wish to do so when considering the roof over their heads. Many walks of life, particularly the Services, appear to follow Christ more closely in this respect.

It will be interesting in the debate in the Synod to see, under whatever excuse, e.g. financial and housing difficulties, how many clergy support a system that appears to the rest of the world to be contrary to the example of Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully,
JOE HORDERN
(Churchwarden),
Radwinter,
Saffron Walden, Essex,
October 22.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Need for security to beat truancy

From Mrs Carole Foy

Sir, Proposals to publish figures on truancy (report, October 19) assume that facts can be collected, yet we are told there are not systems for checking on pupils' attendance during the day at school, only on arrival. Is it so difficult for schools to do what employers have been doing for years?

In the course of my daily business life, I visit many offices and factories where several hundred people are employed on the site, often all arriving and leaving at the same time by the same entrance. In nearly every case, there is a formal reception and exit procedure, varying from having to sign a book and collect a badge from a commissionaire to more elaborate procedures with security passcards.

I often notice security cameras and in many plants, staff and visitors must wear identification badges. None of this seems to bother the people who work there, or the genuine, as opposed to the clandestine, visitor. Indeed, it must give a certain comfort to the employees to feel their space is "owned" by them alone.

In a previous job, I visited schools. I never witnessed any kind of control on cars leaving and entering the premises and rarely encountered any kind of reception procedure. I often roamed the corridors unchallenged until I could locate an office, usually on the first floor. Skipping out of lessons would have been all too easy and it would not have been hard to raid the stationery cupboard or indeed set light to it!

Why do we accept the need to maintain a level of control on reasonably well-motivated, honest adults, yet let immature and occasionally disturbed children pass in and out of schools without supervision? While we are waiting for the time when all pupils are honest, tidy and committed to putting in a full day, we could install some basic security procedures to keep them in, and vandals, petty thieves and flashers out.

Yes, of course it will cost money, but then so does truancy and the disadvantaged society it produces.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE FOY,
Crichton House,
Pathhead, Midlothian,
October 22.

Ronson in prison

From Mrs Margaret Canovan

Sir, Like Mrs Gerald Ronson (October 23), the Board of Visitors of HM Prison Ford feel most concerned about the persistent "bouncing" of the Guinness trio, and the printing of inaccuracies and exaggerations in their search for dramatic "copy". Appointed to a watch-dog role by the Home Secretary, the BOV is in close contact with the daily life at the prison and is in a strong position to substantiate many of Mrs Ronson's details.

The prison has been meticulous in dealing with what they recognise as a potentially sensitive issue, complying strictly with prison rules and without any special treatment for the individuals concerned. To follow anything other than standard procedure would be a disservice to staff, all inmates and their families.

Yours faithfully,
M. CANOVAN
(Chairman, Board of Visitors),
HM Prison Ford,
Arundel, West Sussex,
October 23.

From Mr John C. Mewies

Sir, For Mrs Ronson to suggest that her husband has not been privileged whilst detained is palpable nonsense. Never, during the whole of my experience as a criminal lawyer, have I known a client of mine to be transferred so quickly to an open prison. Not once have I known of a convicted prisoner being allowed to have an unsupervised visit to his own medical adviser on the outside and thereafter stop off at home for lunch prior to his return to prison.

Mrs Ronson's husband has certainly enjoyed concessions and privileges which are beyond the wildest dreams of the ordinary convicted person. If she requires further proof she should visit HM Prison, Armley, Leeds and other similar establishments.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MEWIES,
J. P. Mewies & Co. (Solicitors),
Clifford House,
Keighley Road,
Skipton, North Yorkshire,
October 23.

Perfect silence

From Dr R. T. D. Oliver

Sir, I must take issue with the contention in your editorial (October 19) that one has to wait for the tomb to achieve perfect silence.

My most spiritual experience of silence came when attending a concert of electronic synthesized music by some composer, long forgotten, who used periods of silence between cacophonies as a feature of his composition.

This led me to realise that indeed silence was golden, though you need noise to appreciate it.

Yours faithfully,
TIM OLIVER,
The London Hospital Medical College,
Department of Medical Oncology,
Turner Street, E1,
October 19.



Deadline is near

ANY last-minute entries for this year's Technology Press Awards must be in by tomorrow. The awards, sponsored jointly by *The Times* and Hewlett-Packard, cover ten categories, with prizes including holidays in India, Mexico and the Maldives.

Any relevant articles, photographs, magazines or programmes which have been published or broadcast between October 1, 1989, and September 30, 1990, are eligible.

Editors may nominate candidates who have worked on their publications, or journalists may submit entries, which can consist of a maximum of three examples of published or broadcast work for each category.

The winners will be announced at a special awards dinner, to be held at Claridges on December 13, hosted by Alan Coren, the writer and broadcaster.

For further information: *Horsley Marketing and Communication* (071-379 3404).

Unlocking secrets of a plant's sex life

Genetics will boost the seed industry

PLANTS have sex, which is a nuisance for the multi-million-dollar industry that uses hybrid seed. Today's *Nature* magazine reveals a new way to help farmers and nurseries to cope with this inconvenience.

Professor Robert Goldberg and his associates at the University of California, Los Angeles, and colleagues at Plant Genetic Systems NV of Ghent, Belgium, have created genetically engineered, or "transgenic", strains of tobacco and oilseed rape that fail to develop pollen grains, the male sex cells, but are otherwise normal.

They are thus ideal for plant breeders, who must ensure that F1 hybrid seed comes from established parental lines, not from self or random pollination. Farmers who buy the seed like to know what they are getting.

F1 hybrids are bred from two pure parental strains. The genetic characteristics of each parental strain are known well in advance, but hybrids have the advantage that they are harder and more resistant to disease than either parent. This explains the importance of hybrid stock.

"Hybridisation is an enormously important component of the breeding industry to-

day," says Dr David Baulcombe, of the John Innes Institute in Norwich. "Every plant you care to name is produced as an F1 hybrid." A casual look at any seed catalogue will reveal that plants are sold as hybrids.

But ensuring that plants are not self-fertile can be a labour-intensive process, sometimes involving the removal of male sex organs from thousands of plants by hand, a source of pocket money for American schoolchildren.

The secret of the new research lies in the anther, the male plant sex organ that produces pollen. Genes, whether in plants or animals, are made of the nucleic acid DNA, and the information they contain is translated into a protein. Between DNA and protein is an intermediate step in which the genetic information in DNA is conveyed to the cell's protein-manufacturing machinery encoded in another nucleic acid, "messenger" RNA (mRNA).

Genes concerned with making pollen are expressed in the anthers only, so that pollen-specific mRNA will be found in anther tissue, and no other.

HENRY GEE

© Nature Times News Service, 1990

British theories on the spread of leukaemia are being questioned by a new French study, Nigel Hawkes reports

Confusion over how safe it is to live in the neighbourhood of a nuclear power plant has been compounded by the results of a new study in France. The study's authors have failed to find any evidence of increased cancer incidence in people living close to six nuclear plants, which seems to contradict evidence in Britain, where above-average "clusters" of childhood leukaemia have been found around both the Sellafield and Dounreay nuclear plants.

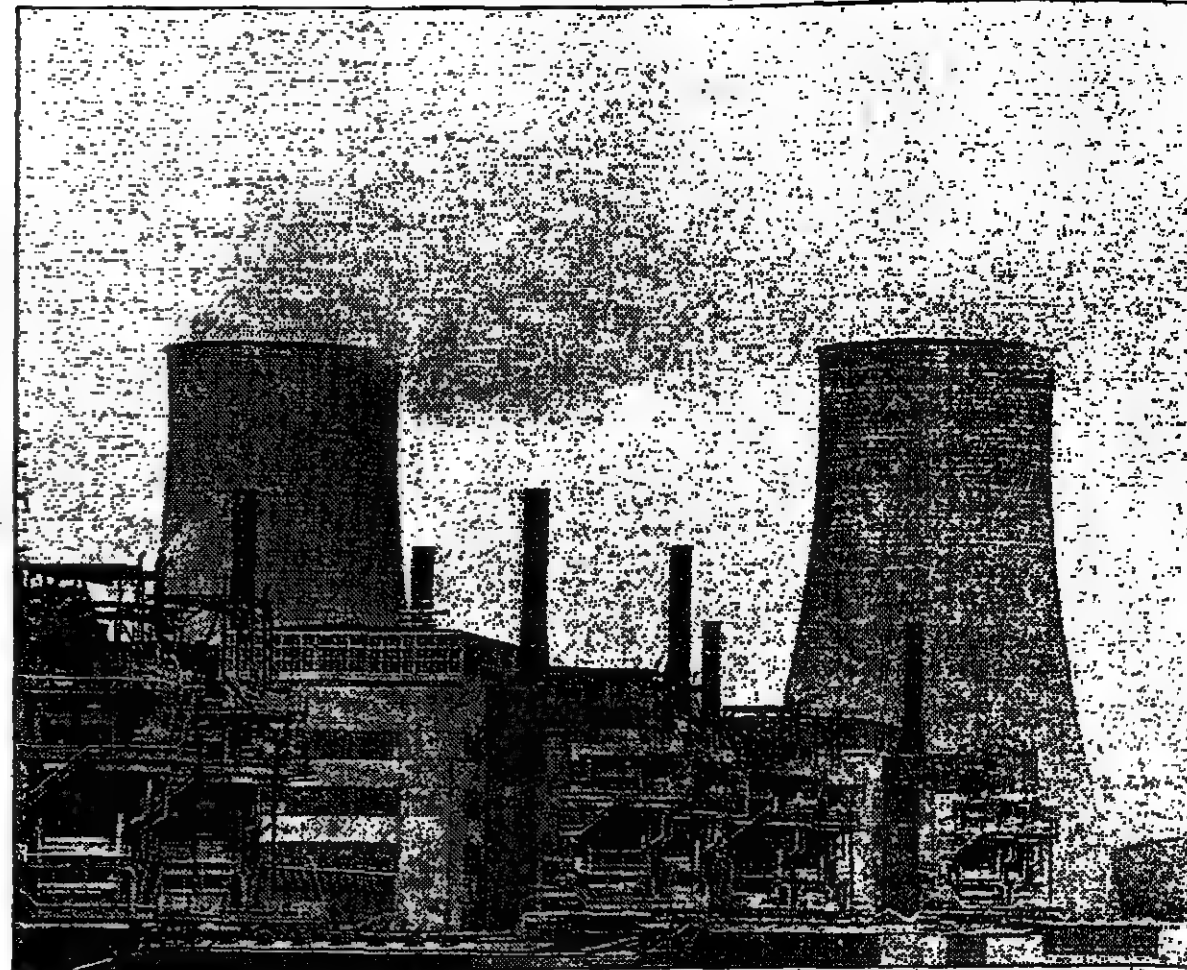
The French results, reported in today's *Nature* magazine, follow a similar failure to find any increased risk of cancer around United States nuclear installations. Although the methodology of the American study has been criticised, no similar complaint can be directed at the French study, and its publication is bound to focus more attention on alternative explanations for the mystery of the leukaemia clusters.

The issue is of more than academic interest because the latest findings could have implications for the parents of children such as Gemma D'Arcy, a six-year-old, who died of leukaemia last month. Her father has worked at Sellafield since 1977 and her case is one of three against British Nuclear Fuels, aimed at establishing negligence, winning compensation and setting a legal precedent, which would help other alleged victims of radiation-induced leukaemia. The French and American studies seem certain to form part of the evidence when the test cases come to court within the next 18 months.

Catherine Hill and Agnes Laplanche, of the Institute Gustave Roussy at Villejuif, have studied deaths from leukaemia around sites that have been in operation since 1975 or before, to allow a minimum follow-up of ten years for cancer mortality. They found 58 leukaemia deaths around the six sites, and 62 around control sites chosen to be similar in all ways, apart from proximity to a nuclear installation. The conclusion is that living next to a nuclear station does not increase the risk of dying of leukaemia.

The same conclusion was reached a month ago after a nationwide study in America, which looked at 62 nuclear facilities, comparing deaths in the counties close to them with a similar set of counties a large distance away.

John Boice, the head of the US National Cancer Institute's radiation



Sellafield: leukaemia clusters have been found nearby, but new studies question their significance

epidemiology branch, says that the study found "no persuasive evidence of any increased risk of death from any of the cancers we surveyed due to living near nuclear facilities". The American study was criticised because the death statistics came from whole counties, which could be too large to pick up the very small increases noted in the areas immediately around Sellafield and Dounreay.

The French study is not open to the same objections. In the Roussy study, very small areas were considered, and the methodology was similar to that used in Britain. The French found a higher-than-expected incidence of another cancer, Hodgkin's disease, around the sites studied. They noted 12 deaths from this uncommon cancer, twice the national average, but the numbers were too small to know whether the finding was significant.

To complicate the picture further, one study in America has found British-style clusters. The Massachusetts public health department published a report two weeks ago on the frequency of leukaemia among adults living within ten miles of the Pilgrim nuclear plant in the period between 1978 and 1986. For the first half of this period, leukaemia incidence was

four times higher than expected; for the second half, no increase was detected.

There are several possible explanations for the discrepancies between the different sets of data. The most obvious, suggested by the French authors, is that radioactive contamination levels were higher around Sellafield and Dounreay than around the French plants.

The same explanation has been advanced to explain the Pilgrim statistics. In the mid-1970s, higher-

Research Campaign's epidemiology unit at Edinburgh university. He has found a significant difference in leukaemia incidence in two types of new settlement pioneered by Britain in the postwar years. The rural towns drew their population from a variety of different backgrounds, while the overspill new towns were made up of people moved en masse from the cities in the aftermath of war.

Dr Kilen and colleagues found childhood leukaemia higher in the rural than in the overspill new towns. He speculates that the disease may be transmitted by an infective agent, as some animal leukaemias are. If so, a large influx of outsiders into a rural area, carrying an infection to which the local population has no immunity, could cause a temporary spurt. The movement of a homogenous population to an overspill town would not have the same effect.

Sellafield and Dounreay were, in effect, rural new towns established after the war. If Dr Kilen is right, the leukaemia clusters found in both are the result not of radiation but of population movements and a so-far unidentified infective agent. As the data proliferate without converging, more and more people are starting to take the Kilen hypothesis seriously.

The disease may even be transmitted by an infective agent

than-normal releases of radioactivity may have initiated cancers that showed in the statistics between 1979 and 1983. Later, the releases came under better control, possibly explaining why no excess cancers were found between 1983 and 1986.

An alternative is to assume that the excess leukaemias are real but have nothing to do with radiation exposure. The most persuasive argument has come from Leo Kilen, of the Cancer

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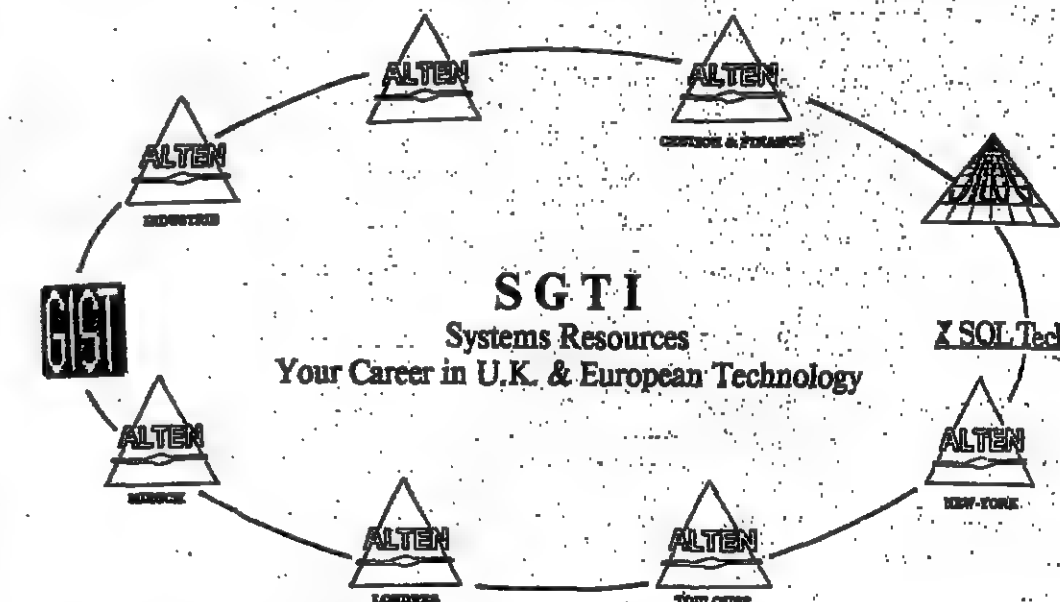
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Tanks for the quiet life

HIGHLY sophisticated communications headsets capable of neutralising the oppressive, fatiguing and potentially damaging noises that rumble through armoured fighting vehicles have been developed by British electronics engineers.

The headsets are to be supplied to the British Army's fleet of Warrior combat vehicles, some of which form part of the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf. The headsets have been developed by researchers at Racal Acoustics in Harlow, London, and the company claims the system, active noise reduction (ANR), will be the first of its kind to enter service with an army anywhere in the world.

Low frequency sounds in combat vehicles can often climb beyond 90 decibels, exceeding Britain's Health and Safety Executive's safety limits.

At the heart of the integrated headsets are tiny microphones sensitive to loud, low-frequency sounds.

"Conventional headsets or ear protectors are good at cutting out high-frequency,



A headset that takes the new rumble-free system.

whistling sounds, but do absolutely nothing for low-frequency noise," Ken Welch, the marketing manager of Racal, says.

On detecting rumbling noises of up to 130 decibels, the microphones pass a copy of the signal to another part of the system, which generates an anti-phase signal that is driven back into the ear. The headsets also have voice-activated switches for hands-free operation.

The company believes the £1 million contract with the defence ministry could lead to applications of the system in aviation, ship's engine rooms and industrial environments.

NICK NUTTALL

THE PATH OF MODERN DETECTION

1 Adhesive tape is used to collect fibres from the victim's clothing.



2 The fibres are then sandwiched between the tape and acetate sheets for protection.



3 Two microscopes with eyepieces linked allow separate fibres to be examined simultaneously. This is to compare colour, surface features and general physical appearance.



4 The next stage is to use a microscope that can provide a print-out of whether matching colours come from not only the same manufacturer but the same batch of dye.



5 Each strand is examined for a common link with a low-power stereomicroscope.



6 The final stage uses infra red radiation to provide a "fingerprint" print out of the fibres that can reveal minute differences between molecules.



7 Clear differences can be detected by variations in fluorescence under ultra-violet light and strong blue light.



Scientists join free market

Forensic experts are now able to turn their talents for crime detection to the unmasking of industrial criminals. Pearce Wright explains

The identities and source of compounds causing river pollution or food contamination may be unmasked in future by the forensic science methods employed usually to trap murderers, arsonists, forgers and burglars.

From next year, and for a price, commercial organisations and individuals will be able to seek help from the experts at the science service laboratories of the Home Office. Previously reserved for police work, the service will become an independent agency which, in theory, could even analyse the evidence at the heart of a civil dispute, such as an accusation of adulterous behaviour.

While recent excitement has focused on the breakthrough in genetic fingerprinting to identify individuals guilty of assault or rape, forensic scientists have refined other means to establish the provenance of thousands of items gathered in the search for clues to the perpetrator of a crime.

Star-shaped microscopic hairs that grow on the underside of ivy leaves were among the tell-tale traces that last year helped to convict Trevor Tuck of murdering a nine-year-old child. Identification of the tiny plant filaments mingled with synthetic fibres provided crucial scientific evidence to link the accused with the scene of the crime.

As a prelude to becoming an agency, researchers at the Huntingdon laboratory of the forensic science service have demonstrated some of its latest developments for scrutinising objects from firearms and microscopic frag-

ments of paint and glass, such as car headlight bulbs, to barely visible fingerprints and footprints.

Fibre analysis provides an increasing proportion of the scientific detective work, according to Dr Nicholas France, the forensic services manager at Huntingdon. In cases of assault, two sets of clothes are frequently subjected to forensic tests, one from the victim and one from the suspect. The garments are studied in separate laboratories, where cleanliness is all-important. Cross-contamination is as much the enemy of the forensic scientist as cross-infection is for the surgeon because the most important fibres usually between only 2mm and 10mm long.

Typical apparel collected for analysis could include a pair of jeans or a jumper. To collect surface debris, a garment is laid on a table top. Simple techniques have been devised for removing biological stains, which may be visible only under a strong light or with a magnifying glass.

Suspect extraneous fibres and particles are removed by covering the garment with strips of transparent adhesive tape, special-purpose tape with low or high stickiness is used, depending on the type of material. The tapes are peeled off and stuck to transparent plastic sheets, sandwiching the

hairs, fibres and particles to protect them from contamination.

A preliminary comparison of scores of fibres from both sets of garments can then be studied systematically under a low-power microscope to assess their significance. Before comparisons are made, the colour, size, shape and features obvious to the expert eye are examined to exclude unwanted fibres. The few that suggest they may have a common origin are then removed from their plastic sandwich and attached to a fingernail-size glass slide for more detailed study under a series of special microscopes.

The first consists of two microscopes with their eyepieces linked so the scientist sees both specimens of fibre simultaneously and can make a comparison of colour match, surface features, width and general physical appearance.

Other tests can be done to see how fibres look under ultra-violet light and strong blue light. Clear differences can be detected by variations in fluorescence under ultra-violet light, and changes in colour appearance on exposure to a strong blue light source.

By this time, the basic description of a material is well established as a wool, cotton, acrylic, polyester or

polyamide. More detailed confirmation comes from the next two advanced types of microscope.

The first, known as a microspectrophotometer, is an extraordinarily sensitive device that can make an accurate cross-check of the precise colour characteristics given to a synthetic fibre from the dyes with which it was processed.

Variations between batches of dyes from hour to hour in the manufacturing process are invisible to the customer, but meat and drink to forensic science. The analyser can focus a beam of light on a speck of material as small as 10 microns by 50 microns to determine its colour characteristics.

The latest microscope used for analysing synthetic fibres examines what happens when a beam of infrared radiation is shone through the material. A "fingerprint" of the fibre is produced that reveals intimate differences between the molecules of the same types of synthetic fibre.

During the Tuck murder investigation, work by the forensic science laboratory at Chepstow involved tests on wet and freshly-washed clothing taken from the suspect's house. Forensic scientists also examined blood-stained scissors from which fibres from the victim's clothing were identified. The same type of fibres were also recovered from the suspect's newly washed clothing.

In addition, the debris from the clothes included star-shaped hairs identical to the type growing on ivy leaves concealing the body.

Americans chase cheap UK staff

JOBS SCENE

AMERICAN companies are taking advantage of the fall in demand for information technology staff in Britain, offering hope in a quiet market.

Many British recruitment agencies are offering contract and permanent positions in the United States, along with relocation benefits such as flights, visas and initial accommodation, although the package varies, depending on circumstances.

Computer People, for example, is recruiting more than 50 staff for various American locations, from New York to Miami, while another agency, VNG Nationwide, described its advertised list of 15 US vacancies as a "small subset of those on offer" and attracted more than 170 applications from one advertisement.

Julia Hyde, the international recruitment manager for Computer People, says: "Many British staff are keen to relocate because of the jobs situation here. The market is not so flat in the US and there is always a demand for skilled IT staff."

Companies are seeking mostly those with experience of Unix-based systems. Tandem as well as IBM, while another agency has positions for Unix systems experience. Traditionally, American companies have looked abroad only for those with experience of IBM mainframes. Computer People is interviewing people for 20 positions that require experience of Tandem systems, and a New York company is looking for 20 Unix/C staff.

Ms Hyde says that salaries vary, but are in line with American rates and can give a high standard of living compared with Britain. The exchange rate of nearly \$2 to the pound makes the option less attractive to those needing to service high mortgages at home through a US salary.

Chad Stolper, a director of Prescott Computers, says: "Salaries are about \$35,000 (£18,000) to \$55,000 (£28,350) and, although they are less than the equivalent paid to somebody from the US, they provide a good standard of living. Companies are usually looking for staff with a degree and about eight

years' IT experience. They want to cream off the best from Britain and are after good bargains compared with what they would pay in the US for similar skills."

Mr Stolper says the assignments, mostly for IBM skills, are for an initial 18 months, but companies are prepared to apply for residency after this period so that the contractor can join the company permanently.

It takes about three months to gain a working visa from the US embassy in London.

VNG Nationwide, of Cheshire, recently formed an alliance with a US software house in Detroit, Michigan, to help place contracts for British staff. The agency is seeking a large number of people with experience of IBM, DEC and, in particular,

Unisys, for positions mostly in the mid-US.

"We are focusing on the three to six-month contract to attract the young, mobile contractor, although some assignments are for a year or longer," Andy Johnston, of the agency's international support department, says. "This group is attracted by the opportunity to travel and work in a new environment, while earning lots of money, and often they do not usually have high mortgages or family commitments back in the UK."

Apart from the possibility of being able to buy expertise cheaper in Britain than at home, some US companies have difficulty finding enough skilled staff within the US because many Americans are reluctant to relocate.

Some say that it can be easier to attract staff from Britain than to convince an American to move from one city to another.

The downturn in the US economy, unlike that in Britain, has had little effect on IT staff recruitment. Agencies believe this is because of the shortage of skilled staff. The recent increase in vacancies is also caused by the expansion of British agencies abroad to compensate for the decline of jobs in the UK.

LESLIE TILLEY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Press preview: 12.15

COPUS (the Committee on the Public Understanding of Science) of the Royal Society, the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Institution is hosting a day of action to celebrate the exciting variety of activities with which it is now associated, many of which have received direct support through the COPUS grant scheme for projects that aim to improve the public understanding of science. Visitors to the day will include those already involved in promoting the public understanding of science as well as those who would like to be.

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HEALTH

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

However reprehensible the reporting of Gerald Ronson's incarceration at Ford prison, it was, perhaps, naive to expect that the public, which has repeatedly been told that the only punishment that should be exacted by a prison sentence should be the loss of liberty, would not be surprised when it found out that this loss of liberty did not always extend to a prisoner's freedom to visit his doctor twice in the same day many miles away in London, with a family lunch between consultations.

Those who feared that Mr Ronson might be suffering from an immediate, life-threatening condition, would have been relieved to read in Gail Ronson's letter to *The Times* on Tuesday that her husband has bronchiectasis, a chronic chest disease in which the bronchi, the small tubes leading to the lung tissue, become blocked and distended with thick secretions so that they and the lung tissue become

Draw a free breath

infected and later fibrosed. After several attacks, the bronchial tubes become permanently dilated to form either saccular, cylindrical, or varicose small bags of pus. The normally smooth lung tissue they supply starts to resemble Gruyère cheese, with the holes filled with mucus, pus and, if a small vessel has been eroded, blood.

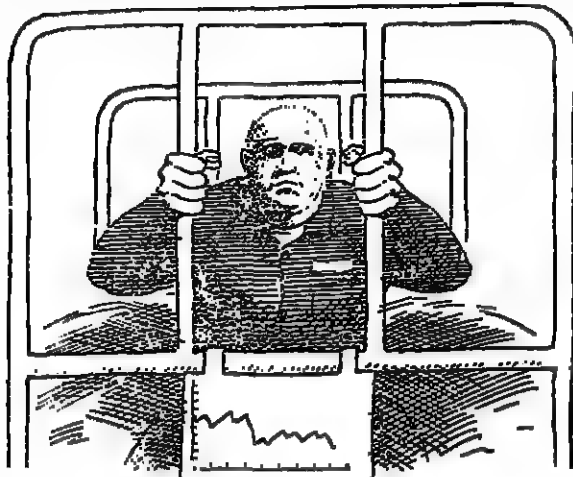
Occasionally, patients are born with bronchiectasis due to congenital disease, or the lung fails to expand after birth. More usually, the disease is acquired in childhood and follows under-treated pneumonia, although

bronchiectasis can occur at any age after a neglected attack of pneumonia or from bronchial obstruction. The damage done by the inflammation in the walls of the bronchial tubes, which is often associated with measles or whooping cough, results in the destruction of the cilia, the minute hairs that cover the lining of the bronchial tubes, which sweep the debris along the bronchial tube. If the profuse mucus is allowed to settle undisturbed, the bronchi become ready sites for infection.

The symptoms which Ronson, and fellow sufferers, have to endure are not pleasant; they have a chronic cough producing copious amounts of foul smelling sputum, often flecked with blood. Characteristically, the cough is worse in the early mornings, and again in the evenings, just when he and his new-found colleagues at Ford will be hoping to settle down to watch television. During the day, while he would be busy swabbing down the prison dining room, the cough would not be so bad.

Diagnosis of bronchiectasis is confirmed by an x-ray procedure which, by using an iodine preparation, outlines the pattern of the bronchial tree. In a few cases, when the disease is localised in a small part of the lung, surgery can be used to remove the damaged area. Other patients require a well-planned antibiotic regimen, together with exercises to help drain the lungs.

City colleagues and investors can be reassured that, although more than a third of patients once died within ten years of onset, modern antibiotic therapy means that Mr Ronson can expect a normal life span.



Drawn by Peter Vasey

At large with Derek Nimmo

Some years ago, Derek Nimmo became a national character as the thin, frail, hesitant curate in *All Gas and Gaiters*. Since then, with the help of the chef at the Garrick Club, his figure has blossomed. The transition was not achieved without cost: four years ago, Mr Nimmo needed a coronary bypass. This week he was a guest of honour at Mosimann's, the London restaurant run by the chef Anton Mosimann. Mr Mosimann served a meal which he hoped might increase public awareness of the link between cholesterol levels and heart disease and demonstrate that low-cholesterol foods need not be unsophisticated or tasteless.

Changing the diet can influence total blood cholesterol by about 20 to 30 per cent. The rest of it is dependent on other factors; everybody would, therefore, be well advised to find out their own cholesterol levels so

that they can determine what action, if any, is needed.

About one in 500 people is born with a particularly serious form of raised cholesterol, Familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH). The raised cholesterol here is due mainly to an increase in an accumulation of low-density lipoprotein, the more dangerous fraction of the total serum cholesterol. Often the diagnosis of FH

is made after other relatives have had heart attacks. Other cases can be revealed by a white line which appears at an early age around the iris, or the little flecks of fat xanthomas which look like specks of butter buried in the skin around the eyes. Others have swellings on the backs of tendons. Patients with FH need a doctor's pills as well as Mr Mosimann's cooking.

Short, chilly outlook

Early risers who listen to *Farming Today* on BBC radio would have heard on Monday that colder days lie ahead. Notwithstanding the chill in the atmosphere, London seems to have as many mini-skirted women as ever. The lessons learnt last time the mini skirt was fashionable have been disregarded and perniois forgotten.

Perniosis is the physiological reaction of the exposed limbs to cold. The skin of the thigh is particularly vulnerable, sometimes becoming totally mortified, a condition known as Cuts Marmorata. These skin changes are secondary to an increase in the thickness of the layer of the subcutaneous fat. The thicker layer of fat insulates the deeper tissues of the leg, results in a cooler skin and accounts for the changes in its colour. Unfortunately, the slowing of the circulation renders the skin liable to



A small comfort: the mini minor infections, spots and boils. Not only doctors see the troubles wrought by exposing the body to the cold. Farmers, too, have their troubles; it is becoming increasingly common to allow pigs to enjoy the pleasures of being reared free-range and, unfortunately, pigs also develop perniois with its thick subcutaneous layer of fat and unhealthy skin, changes the butcher does not always welcome.



Heavy going: Derek Nimmo



Playing for time? String players such as the Korean violinist Kyung-Wha Chung are said to be vulnerable to upper limb disorder

Taking the work strain

What disorder is said to be shared by the chicken plucker, the insurance clerk, and the pianist pounding out a musical accompaniment for the keep fit class? The answer is repetitive strain injury (RSI).

Anyone who repeatedly performs awkward hand movements can be affected by RSI. Like myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), it is a multi-symptom disorder which some experts feel does not exist at all - except in the mind of the sufferer. Others say that, like ME, it is a lingering, often misdiagnosed condition which causes untold pain and misery. Despite the continuing confusion over what RSI actually is, the Health and Safety Executive will today issue guidance to employers on how it can be avoided.

At the same time, the executive is changing the name on the grounds that the disorder does not always result from repetition, or from strain, and is not always a visible injury. The new name is work related upper limb disorder (WRULD, or ULD for short).

The executive's guidance will have quasi-legal status - employers are not obliged to follow it, but failure to do so is likely to be cited in cases brought by employees who claim that work has damaged their health. So far all such claims have been settled out of court. Although there have been some well publicised settlements in the region of £30,000 to £40,000, figures of between £2,000 and £5,000 are more common.

The most contentious, and probably the best publicised, manifestations of WRULD affect those who operate computer terminals, and especially journalists, who are either praised for having brought this pernicious condition to the public attention, or lambasted for having allowed their own aches and pains

While confusion reigns about the causes of repetitive strain injury, there is now official advice on how to avoid it. Ann Kent reports

to destroy their objectivity.

Brian Pearce belongs to the second camp. Mr Pearce is a director of the Human Sciences and Advanced Technology Research Institute at the University of Loughborough, which offers a consultancy service to companies having difficulties with new technology. He says the RSI label is misused to cover a rag-bag of problems including some genuine work injuries, some passing aches and pains, and simple fatigue. "Work is tiring, but I would make a major distinction between white and blue-collar repetitive strain injury. The chicken plucker does not have the same condition as the journalist at a computer terminal, and the issue has been muddled by mixing the two."

According to Mr Pearce, the genuine problems associated with the use of computers are easily remedied with ergonomic changes such as slightly lowering the height of the desk holding the terminal, and improving the seating of the operators. "But ergonomic faults on their own do not cause RSI, problems in offices. You can have a mini epidemic in one building while in another, which is just as badly designed, no one is ill at all."

The big difference lies in what he calls the psychosocial factors. "You always get more problems when people are disillusioned, depressed or bored with their work, or when they feel that the management doesn't care about them. I don't think that office workers who complain of RSI are frauds or malingerers, but unfortunately symptoms that people have always had but didn't bother to report are now being labelled as

RSI. As a result we have a lot of very worried people, who think they are at the start of a crippling disease process."

Certainly RSI - under any name - causes problems for the medical profession. Mr Frank Burke, consultant hand surgeon at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, admits: "This is an ill-understood area. It could be that there is a new clinical condition out there which we haven't yet diagnosed, but it is hard to see how it can suddenly cause this epidemic of complaints."

"Doctors are often asked by unions or insurance companies to determine whether a patient has a clinical disease. This is very difficult in cases like these, where there is no tenderness, no local swelling and nothing to suggest what is causing the symptoms."

Some of Mr Burke's patients - more commonly those in 'blue-collar jobs' - do appear to have work-related injuries, which, he says, tend to resolve in time. But he believes that some who complain of fingerling limb disorders may have psychological problems which prolong their symptoms.

However, Dr Richard Pearson, a consultant physician who runs the Musicians' and Keyboard Clinic in London, denies that RSI is psychosomatic or caused by disillusionment at work. He points out that his patients are highly motivated to continue working. "In orchestras the string section is most likely to develop problems because they tend to play all the time. Pianists who accompany keep fit classes also seem to develop more problems."

"If sufferers from these disorders show psychological problems, that

is hardly surprising in view of the continuous pain, the threat to their employment, income and status, and their inability to carry out everyday activities."

Dr Pearson says that most patients can return to normal existence, although it may take three to six months of "very careful" physiotherapy. "Unfortunately it is often impossible to obtain this kind of skilled help within the NHS. For that reason, it is essential that employers either carry insurance to pay for this treatment, or employ an appropriately trained physiotherapist."

Ron Muldely, the chairman of the RSI Association, says such understanding on the part of a doctor is rare. "We are terribly worried about the utter failure of the medical profession to come to terms with RSI," he says. "Our members complain that their condition is dismissed as trivial, or 'they are accused of hysteria'."

Dr Colin Mackay, a psychologist who formulated the HSE's guidance on upper limb disorders, says: "Although we are talking about a range of different conditions, there are a number of important common factors. Posture of the body, and particularly the posture of the arm and the grip used by the hand, all seem to be important."

Dr Mackay agrees that many upper limb disorders have a psychological content. "Thresholds of pain and discomfort vary enormously according to how you feel about your boss, and we know that muscle tension is one of the manifestations of stress."

However, he adds: "An enormous amount of occupational ill health is related to musculo-skeletal problems which can be avoided by changing conditions in the workplace. Whatever the drawbacks of our guidance, it is aimed at helping avoid this horrible waste of people, the illness and the general aggravation which these problems cause."

BREATHING SPACE: KEN RIDLEY

I'VE BEEN rallying for 11 years: I started off at minor club level and progressed to international level abroad and at home. The peak is the Lombard RAC, which I've completed four times.

The correct name for my disability is Holt-Oran syndrome, a genetic disability which makes me look as though I'd been affected by thalidomide. My arms are short - a little below elbow length - and I've only got three fingers on each hand. I can't tie a tie, but then I don't wear one. But that's about the only thing I can't do.

The reason I started out rallying was to be the same as everyone else. I'm sports daft - I love soccer and play pool, squash and snooker - but when I was playing against somebody I didn't know if they were giving 100 per cent against me. In rallying it's me against the clock, and nobody can make any allowances. I'm mega-competitive. I hate to be beaten.

At first I was a little naive, I was so arrogant I would not have any help at all and I was very uncomfortable in the car. I had to sit forward. But all racing drivers have their seats made to suit them. Mine is almost upright and I have allowed myself a three-inch extension on the gear stick. But there are no handles on the wheel or special foot controls.

A couple of years ago I started to feel there must be something other than driving skill that makes you drive well one day and poorly the next. Then I read about Carole Sebeut's sports psychology work with Mark Rowland, the steeplechase jockey. I thought: "This is for me."

After I'd seen Carole I finished third in the 1988 British Open Championship; before, I was nowhere. I'm so much more confident of my ability. I still don't think that I'm driving to 100 per cent of my ability, but through

practice and working with Carole I'm sure I'll get there. I'm finishing at least 15 per cent to 20 per cent higher in the field than before.

I used to suffer from great lapses in concentration. Before an event I'd be really hyped up. I'd wake up in the morning of an event feeling sick, and I'd be snappy at home. Now all that has passed. I'm much more confident about my ability.

Rallying is a difficult sport to practise. It's not like kicking a ball against a wall or swinging a club on a golf course; you've got to go out in a car to a piece of forest which you hire from the Forestry Commission, which is expensive.

We've used various visualisation techniques to run through either a well-known stage, or an imaginary piece of forest. I watch myself driving the car and picking the lines out that I should be on. I visualise a corner coming up, and the correct route I would take through it. It takes about ten minutes. You just sit in the quiet and go through it bit by bit, visualising it in real time, every detail down to changing the gears. Your heartbeat goes up as if you're really driving and you may even come out in perspiration. I don't

know why it seems so real, but I've done it time and again. Mental training is like physical training; you must practise.

Relaxation is another technique. Sometimes during a rally you're able to snatch five minutes when you're just sitting in the car. You imagine yourself going downstairs into your favourite room, full of furniture and pictures you like and an "energy machine". Some of these rallies are really long - the Lombard RAC next month will take four days, and

you're driving from four in the morning until ten that evening. The most we'd stop for is about 20 minutes, so obviously you're going to feel a bit jaded. And to drive a car at speed over difficult terrain takes it out of you.

I imagine the energy machine to look like a radiator with a handle on top, and if you put your hand on it you feel a load of energy

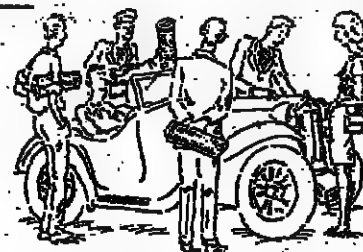
which fills you up. Don't ask me how, but it works. I tried it for the first time a couple of years ago, when one of the drivers had been taking quite a bit of time off me. We had a ten minute break and I tried the technique. The next stage I really turned up the wick and we beat her by about two minutes, which is a lot in rallying.

I try to get as fit as I can before a rally. Just beforehand I'll eat a lot of pasta and during it I'll stick to light bites, anything with high carbohydrates, sandwiches, Mars bars, hamburgers, crisps, junk food, mainly, whatever is available. It's difficult finding a restaurant that's open at 5 o'clock in the morning. I drink a lot of fluids.

I also do weight training before a rally, because your shoulders and arms have got to be strong, and some running.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

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In the shadow of Vesuvius

View of Naples
from Baroque to Romanticism

London, 26th October - 27th November 1990
Accademia Italiana delle Arti e delle Arti Applicate
24, Rutland Gate, London SW7

The exhibition «In the Shadow of Vesuvius», sponsored by IRI, was originally held in Naples between May and July this year and was highly acclaimed. The exhibition is now in London, and this is certainly no coincidence.

The original exhibition focused on the connection between Naples and the many foreign artists who visited the city, many of whom were British. Naples, the capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, was renowned for encouraging the spreading and exchange of culture across its borders, as a great European capital should do.

IRI, the largest conglomerate in Italy, has been operating in Naples for a long time in a wide range of activities - electronics, information technology, shipbuilding, steelworks, telecommunications, transport. The sponsorship by the IRI Group of both the Naples and London exhibitions testifies on one hand, the desire to preserve the history of this great city and, on the other, an international commitment, made even more timely by the fast approaching European Single Market.

The very theme of the exhibition - great «views» of the city and bay - involves insight into the relationship between man and nature, city and country, man and history, great architecture and back alleyways, all of which are part and parcel of today's new-found love of «the land».

Naples in the 18th century, and especially at the turn of that century, was home to an Anglo-Italian society set in the fertile cosmopolitan cultural climate of the Enlightenment.

The links between Britain and the Kingdom of Naples were not only artistic; there were strong commercial connections too. Naples was the farthest point south on the Grand Tour for many rich young travellers. These connections were born of the extraordinary progress achieved in the British textile industry and in the field of mechanics, which were to contribute to the beginnings of modern industry in Southern Italy in the early decades of the 19th century, and to Italy's first railway line, full of symbolic importance, which linked Naples and Portici.

The works gathered in this exhibition enable us to revisit the Neapolitan history, both high and popular cultures, in the warm and luminous tones of landscapes now world-famous. First and foremost though, these works stand to signify the heartfelt wish of the IRI Group that the great European market will be a perfect occasion to renew the traditional bonds of friendship between our two countries.

Franco Nobili

Franco Nobili
Chairman of IRI

The exhibition will be opened
by the President of the Italian Republic
in the presence of H. R. H. the Princess of Wales



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Millennary old élites anti proles

Michael Wright reviews a fragmented, post-modernist American tale of a professor behind bars, and haunted by the folly and futility of Vietnam

Now that we are careering down the final few furlongs towards the year 2000, we may as well prepare ourselves for an onslaught of millennial novels, brimming with buckets of *fin-de-siècle* malaise and the odd thimbleful of brave new worldly optimism. Never mind worrying whether the sky is going to fall on our heads; it's writers' bonanza time.

Kurt Vonnegut here skips over the party itself, and concentrates instead on the morning after. It is the year 2001, and though the apocalypse has failed to show up, America is looking decidedly the worse for wear. The yen and fellatio are rapidly becoming the principal currencies. The social security system has gone bust.

Sesame Street and *Donaghy* are still going strong on telly. Eugene Debs Hartke, a Vietnam war veteran addicted to housekeeping and older women, finds himself a prisoner in the very college where once he had been an unlikely Professor of Physics, accused of masterminding the biggest prison break in history. His narrative is a "walkways speech", a lurid past recalled *Lolita*-like from behind bars. But where *Lolita* is sprawled right across America, *Hocus Pocus* bubbles away in a single valley. On one side squats the huge New York State Maximum Security Adult Correctional Institution, from which — if there were any windows — might be seen the twinkling lights of Tarkington College, a small educational bastion for the learning-disabled offspring of wealthy WASPs.

Sacked from Tarkington for the Socratic crime of attempting to infect the minds of the young (to say nothing of his adultery with the college president's wife), Eugene has crossed the valley to teach at the prison, and gradually the two institutions crystallise into a vision of the world in microcosm: a mass of equally ignorant people split into two camps, the one a haven for the privileged rainwater, the other a hell for the downtrodden masses. Social prejudice and injustice perpetuated through the ignorance and lies — the lethal hocus pocus — of the ruling "élite" is the novel's central theme.

Although other themes, social theories, and concerns are squashed into the narrative like ill-fitting cogs, it is Eugene's Vietnam experience that winds the mainspring and forces the whole thing to grind into life. The folly and futility of Vietnam, and the political hocus pocus that sustained the conflict, are treated with a mordant satire along the lines of *Oh What a Lovely War*. Of

the second world war Eugene observes that "I would have given anything to die in a war that meaningful". His vision is deeply coloured by his war-memories, and a web of martial allusion reflects this: jeans are "booby-trapped"; champagne corks litter a gutter like cartridge cases; lobsters being boiled alive recall napalm attacks. The effect is incisive; but Eugene himself, for all his quirky frankness, has an unengaging whiff of "Exhibit A" about him, and we sympathise with him as a type — a "victim" — rather than as flesh and blood. Other characters are unmitigatedly minor. A motley collection of assorted panjandrum and unstable women who never step far out of the shadows of the narrator's consciousness.

A foreword explains that Eugene wrote the book "in pencil on everything from brown wrapping-paper to the backs of business cards". Chapters are divided into short sections by lines, which supposedly indicate where one scrap ended and the next began. Fortunately, Eugene is a stickler for detail, and has numbered the pages "so there could be no doubt about their being sequential". Phew. A more wilful post-modern writer would have jumbled them up, but the novel is a jigsaw, nevertheless, as Eugene skips backwards and forwards among the wreckage of his past, in the meantime drawing up meticulous lists of the number of women he has slept with, and the number of people he killed in Vietnam.

It is disappointing that Vonnegut does not make more of the scraps-of-paper device, which is really little more than an excuse for a fashionably fractured narrative, with plenty of scope for the kind of asides and tinsel details that are one of the primary delights of his fairground style, all sawdust and fairy lights. Perhaps *Hocus Pocus* has fewer diamonds studding the rock than, say, *Breakfast of Champions* or his brilliant *Slaughterhouse-Five*, but Vonnegut retains his reader-friendly technique of peppering the narrative with tantalising loose ends, which are stitched up wily-nilly as the novel progresses.

Finally, however, this is non-vintage Vonnegut, the overall effect is less than the sum of its parts. Attempting to hit too many targets at once, the author has lobbed a fragmentation grenade rather than firing off an armour piercing missile, and a glut of ideology unbalances the novel. There's a lot of noise here, but all too few traces of music, and this particular piece of hocus pocus ultimately fails to weave a convincing spell.

HOCUS POCUS
By Kurt Vonnegut
Cape, £13.99



Kurt Vonnegut, our off-beat and naughty professor of transatlantic Swiftian satire and gonzo wit

Ancient literary in-joke murder

Cyril Connolly published the first of the four parts that constitute this literary who-dunit in the magazine, *Encounter*, in 1956. The second and third sections were written, though not corrected, and a few years before his death in 1974, Connolly apparently showed these to Peter Levi, and outlined the denouement. Levi (now married to Connolly's widow, Deirdre — to whom this book is dedicated — and therefore joint custodian of the Cyril Connolly estate) recently determined to write the fourth and final part himself, and published the whole: the result is elegant, ingenious, and more chock-full of literary and artistic allusion and quotation than any modern book I can think of. Acquaintance with poets such as Fulke Greville and artists such as Marcellus Laroon is taken for granted, as is the assumption of a good working knowledge of Italian and Latin — while fluent French will be seen to be absolutely *de rigueur*. And yet, far from being dense and indigestible, the novel is readable, if lightweight, rescued from accusations of incurable snobbery and self-indulgent foppishness only by Connolly repeatedly intimating, very subtly indeed within the first section (and the first section is by far the most accomplished), that he is consciously going too far in some directions (the highly articulate flourishes, over epicurean arcana and the ceaseless donnish preening — "How am I doing?" asks Connolly parenthetically at one point) because he is aware that he cannot get far enough in others — such as plot development, characterisation, and memorable dialogue. Many of the descriptive passages are *resonant*, it must be said — Connolly seems sometimes to have invented resonance — but when the plangency is over, a silence looms large.

The plot concerns Stephen Kemble, a humble young novel reviewer (and Connolly apparently thought it possible to be all these three things at once) who humbly goes to interview a newly knighted grand old man of letters, Mortimer Gussage, before whom he humbles himself in a proud yet diffident Charles Ryder sort of way — young Kemble also bringing to mind those faceless yet all-seeing first person narrators that Dick Francis uses to such great effect. Gussage turns out to be a huge character who fills the page and the lives of all present (a natural for Gielgud), and so it is rather annoying when he dies fairly early on, leaving us to decide whether or not he was killed, and if so why, and by whom. Red herrings — or, less charitably, ideas never followed up — abound, and the solution is handled quite deftly by Levi (though to betray it would be to take away all reason you might have to read the novel) — despite the fact that he chickened out most fearfully, with his treatment of two of the more endearingly madcap bits of equipment planted by Connolly in part three: a 1787 bottle of Imperial Tokay intended to loosen hedonistic tongues is broken while in the jacket pocket of Kemble while he is attempting to seduce Gussage's daughter (very *Lucky Jim*, but that's not the point), and an explosive fountain pen (remember, Connolly very credibly spoofed James Bond long before it was mandatory to do so), which Levi has Kemble throw out of the window.

The in-jokes are there, as you would expect — wine "as old as Puffrock", Gussage's young wife Cressida (the name of Connolly's daughter), *Horizon* in the great bedroom, and mentions of "old Tom Eliot" and "Johnny Lehmann" — none of which would have cut any ice with Gussage's down-to-earth daughter Laurien (the possessor of long, hard thighs, and not much else of interest), who says at one point "La vie littéraire... I don't think it's life at all." The overall impression is that imprisoned in this spare, waspish, and conscientiously edited slim volume is a vastly more substantial one: widely signalling to be let out.

Joseph Connolly

SHADE THOSE LAURELS

By Cyril Connolly and Peter Levi
Bellevue, £12.95

Poe-faced dreams of a demon lover

Andrew Sinclair

THE EMPIRE OF LIGHTS

By Robert Grossmith
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

UNDER THE EVENING SKY

By Finn Carling
Translated by A. Muinzer
Peter Owen, £13.50

BROKEN APRIL

By Ismail Kadare
Saqi Books, £10.95

THAT DARCY, THAT DANCER, THAT GENTLEMAN



By J. P. Donleavy
Viking, £13.99

of the family which has killed his brother. In the worst, a ritual gnome from the local shebeen tells another lewd yarn about the Big House. Bless you, Master Donleavy, for keeping Old Ireland forever dancing, dauntless, and jaunty. And now to end this review as you end your chapters with a little prose poem:

The Darcy novels of J. P. Donleavy are no more an acquired taste than old port or raw rump, beef or female. That *Darcy, That Dancer, That Gentleman* is the third part of the Irish chronicles of Darcy Dancer. It is a rollick and a romp that never leaves a pisspot unturned. It is all tawdry and bawdy and tumescence. There is no snigger in Donleavy, never a wink or a nudge. There is a leer and a dig that sometimes nearly breaks a few ribs from laughing.

In the best pages, Sterne and Surtees ride again. In the worst, a ritual gnome from the local shebeen tells another lewd yarn about the Big House. Bless you, Master Donleavy, for keeping Old Ireland forever dancing, dauntless, and jaunty. And now to end this review as you end your chapters with a little prose poem:

Oh dear JP
Wearing the green
Like a feather
In your cap
To tickle
The fancies and fannies
Of those who are
Stuck up.

Saturday Review

Stephen Hawking.
Peter Ackroyd on
the aristocracy.
Richard Holmes
on Tennyson

Cops and log-rolling blurbs

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

SHADOW PREY

By John Sandford
Grafton, £12.99

time ago." In John Gardner's silly *Broken Claw* (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95) Bond goes through the motions, duelling as per usual with foreign villains or mixed blood — but rather as an old-maidish tourist, reduced to meaning the decline of such institutions as English afternoon tea. As for his

roll-neck sweaters and short suede jackets, whatever would that formal dandy Ian Fleming have made of them? *Beta double minus.*

● In William Diehl's 27 (*Heinemann, £14.99*) ("John le Carré move over") dialogue comes in liss: "You are a superb actor. You speak four languages fluently. You are a master of disguise, a soldier and a survivalist [sic], an acrobat. You believe in the Third Reich. And you are a killer." Listing is Hitler; listening is the Lon Chaney of German cinema, about to forsake movie stardom for a secret mission in the US, where his adversaries will be a Gatsbyish playboy who learns the meaning of commitment slowly, over 500 pages. A moratorium on Hitler appearances in third-rate entertainment! In a brief cameo a cockney prostitute gives great dialogue (and punctuation): "Say, you're an English toff, too, ain't you?" *Gamma blimey minus.*

They uncovered
the secret of secrets...
and unleashed
a nightmare

**DANIEL
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THE TOMB**

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SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

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Desire & Hate', a twisting tale of passion and
revenge, set against the backdrop of
the movie world. You can meet Miss Collins
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Delors warns EC of disaster over subsidy cuts impasse

From MICHAEL BONYON IN STRASBOURG

JACQUES Delors, the European Commission president, gave a warning yesterday that it would be disastrous if European farm ministers fail again tomorrow to agree subsidy cuts and the issue goes to the Rome summit on Saturday.

He said this would set a bad precedent of using summits as courts of appeal, which would wreck EC mechanisms for decision-making. It would be "totally unproductive".

But a breakthrough might be in sight at tomorrow's Luxembourg meeting. Germany, the chief obstacle to any agreement, yesterday asked the commission what help Brussels could promise farmers to cushion the blow of 30 per cent cuts in subsidies. M Delors hinted that Chancellor Kohl had been assured something would be done, though not until the negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were out of the way.

The commission would not change its proposal on farm prices. Nor could the EC change the common agricultural policy and weaken its hand in negotiations with GATT partners "who are not

all of good faith" — an implied slur on the Americans.

M Delors strongly opposes GATT becoming a summit topic because he knows Mrs Thatcher will use the present impasse to discredit moves towards political union. He is anticipating an icy confrontation with Mrs Thatcher. Two weeks ago she was complaining about the way the community took decisions with financial implications for member states without proper preparation. She appeared to be angry over recent Brussels proposals for large-scale aid to the Soviet Union and £1.5 billion in aid to the Gulf front-line states without prior consultation.

Her complaint has further chilled the glacial relations between the two, compounded by M Delors' deep affront at her party conference jibe at letting monetary union "in by the back door".

He is therefore eager to avoid a confrontation with Britain on economic and monetary union now. He said yesterday discussion should be kept to a minimum as enough had now been said on this. He implied that attempts to corner Mrs Thatcher could only undermine efforts to win over the British government.

On the crucial question of setting a date for the start of stage two of EMU, he said the subject should be left until December. If possible, this decision should be taken by majority agreement, but not a formal vote which would give Britain a veto.

The date — which he said could be the start of 1993 or 1994 — had now become a crucial test of good faith. Countries with difficulties, such as Greece, could sign up and then negotiate transitional arrangements for a two-year delay in implementing the provisions. The EC would happily grant these. But this was different from a "two-speed Europe" which is what a British refusal to move on to the next stage would lead to.

M Delors implied that he shared Mrs Thatcher's annoyance at holding Saturday's summit at all. It was not a proper European Council, merely an eight-hour chance for leaders to discuss the Gulf, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, on which he will report the commission's findings that direct EC aid is not yet appropriate.

He said that they should spend about two hours discussing political union, as this was less advanced than EMU and more preparation was needed before the inter-governmental conference. He also distanced himself from calls for a merger of the Western European Union with the commission.

Leading article, page 17

Gas men to seek 20% pay rise

Continued from page 1
a total package in which we will gain productivity increases. That makes it an acceptable deal for both sides.

Government worries will hardly be eased, however, by the gas workers' decision to push for even higher rises. Eddie Newall, national energy officer for the GMB general union, said the 20 per cent increase was needed to reverse the drastic decline in morale among British Gas staff. "Our claim is just and necessary. British Gas is a highly profitable operation that, through the efforts of its staff, achieved a profit margin of 17 per cent, or £16.350 per employee last year," he said.

The claim also included a demand for a 2.5 hour reduction in the working week to 35 hours and full consolidation of bonus and supplementary payments. The settlement date is not until January, by which time the government hopes that inflation will be on a steady downward trend.

A spokesman for the company said it was concerned by the size and structure of the claim. "We feel the claim can only be addressed on the basis of the company gaining, in return, improvements in flexibility and changes in working practices."



Francesco Cossiga, the Italian president, listens to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, during a visit to the House of Lords yesterday. Signor Cossiga, one of Europe's elder statesmen, took Margaret Thatcher to task yesterday, four days before an EC summit at which she will defend her vision

of a community of independent nations (Andrew McEwen writes).

Without mentioning the prime minister by name, Signor Cossiga appealed for a more idealistic approach when he addressed both houses of parliament at the Palace of Westminster. He paid tribute to

British pragmatism, but implied that it would carry more weight if it was accompanied by idealism in the future. The Italian president, who is on a four-day state visit, added: "This idealism is more than ever necessary to overcome the real hurdles ... to the construction of a united Europe."

Brandt not to follow in Heath's footsteps

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN A rare agreement, leaders of Germany's four main political parties agreed yesterday that it was not immediately appropriate to ask Willy Brandt to follow Edward Heath's example and fly to Iraq to plead just for the release of hostages. Only if he can be assured that he will be able to act as a mediator for an overall settlement is he likely to agree to go.

The German government is to wait until after discussing the matter at the weekend EC summit in Rome before deciding whether

to approve a visit by Herr Brandt, a Nobel peace prizewinner and current president of the Socialist International, whom Iraq has unofficially invited to Baghdad. The government view is that it would be wrong to ask him to go unless the summit considers this would help efforts to bring about a peaceful solution.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, does not believe a visit like Mr Heath's would be helpful.

Gene law passed, page 15

£5bn package for young and old

Continued from page 1

ler, a former social services secretary and a strong supporter of child benefit, and Sir Ian Gilmour, one of the most powerful critics of past failures to uprate the benefit, were among those who welcomed Mr Newton's announcement.

Mr Newton said that child benefit would remain a "strong element" in Tory policies of family support. But, he added, that did not exclude "other ways" of helping families, a heavy hint that the reintroduction of child tax allowances or some further tinkering with the existing regime remains on the cards.

Michael Meacher, Labour's chief social security spokesman,

launched a scathing attack on Mr Newton's formula for child benefit. He said that the Tories had forfeited any commitment to be the party of the family by again breaking their manifesto pledge. The average family with three children would be £300 a year worse off even after Mr Newton's partial uprating. Labour is committed to restoring the payment for all children to its 1987 value, equivalent now to £9.50.

Mr Meacher said that an extra £1 a week was not much compensation for a mother giving up a job worth £100 a week.

Child welfare organisations condemned Mr Newton's failure to do more for children. The Save the

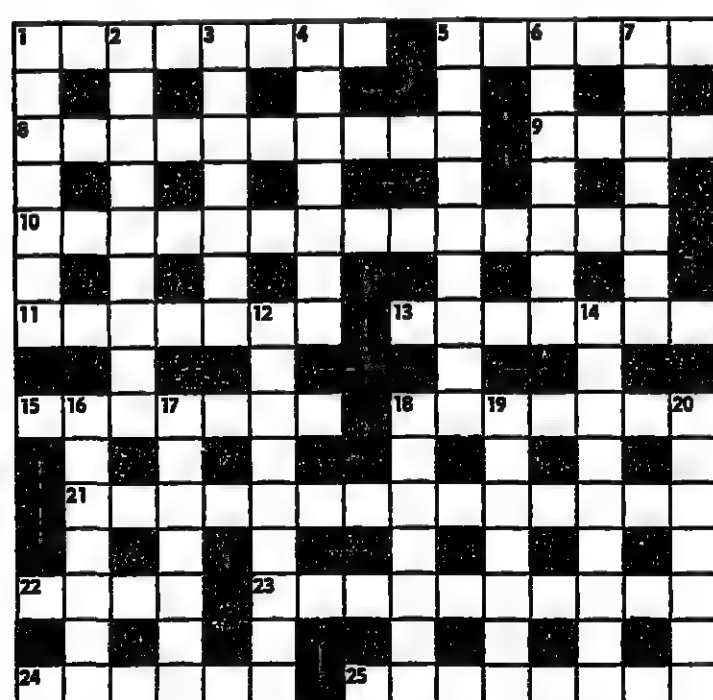
Children Fund said: "The government has missed an opportunity to demonstrate proper support for the family."

The director of the Child Poverty Action Group, Fran Bennett, said: "The £1 increase for the first child is a poor second best in comparison with general uprating for all children and an increase in one-parent benefit for single parent families."

Organisations representing the elderly welcomed the increases for income support in nursing homes but gave a warning that the £3 rise for residential care homes would lead to more homes closing or owners refusing to care for income support claimants.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,434



- ACROSS**
- Where churchwardens may stand out? (4-4).
 - Wood pigeon in copper's helmet (6).
 - Sign of letter missing, with re-directed address (10).
 - Dismissed after one run and overthrow (4).
 - One may case the joint (9-5).
 - Manor-house and land needs me to get organised (17).
 - Distemper for grim apartment (4-3).
 - Wife-beater appearing for trial after free-for-all (5-2).
 - Set about murder with frying-pan (7).
 - Cause of the big bang? Origin recently rewritten (10).
 - Network free after midnight (4).
 - Reverse for paper following opposition (10).

- DOWN**
- Old shell containing ammunition for shooters? (7).
 - He takes his course from the bar at noon (9).
 - Counters for laboratory vessels (7).
 - Carroll's joyful blend? (7).
 - Fair dealer, though shoddy (9).
 - Scrabble's first trio copied, but played badly (7).
 - There is water, air-conditioned, in such tanks (7).
 - He is abnormally nervous, note, in run-up over Kingway (9).
 - Everything one stuffed into faded cover for mattress (9).
 - Rattle? French article with brass at the bottom (7).
 - Unusual dialect in Dover Castle, say (7).
 - Gloomy in nasty giant's lair? (7).
 - Where witnesses may find the figures on the sheet spectacular (5-4).
 - Strains without opening locks (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,433

ACROSS
1. WHERE CHURCHWARDENS MAY STAND OUT? (4-4).
2. WOOD PIGEON IN COPPER'S HELMET (6).
3. SIGN OF LETTER MISSING, WITH RE-DIRECTED ADDRESS (10).
4. DISMISSED AFTER ONE RUN AND OVERTHROW (4).
5. ONE MAY CASE THE JOINT (9-5).
6. MANOR-HOUSE AND LAND NEEDS ME TO GET ORGANISED (17).
7. DISTEMPER FOR GRIM APARTMENT (4-3).
8. WIFE-BEATER APPEARING FOR TRIAL AFTER FREE-FOR-ALL (5-2).
9. SET ABOUT MURDER WITH FRYING-PAN (7).
10. CAUSE OF THE BIG BANG? ORIGIN RECENTLY REWRITTEN (10).
11. NETWORK FREE AFTER MIDNIGHT (4).
12. REVERSE FOR PAPER FOLLOWING OPPOSITION (10).

DOWN
1. OLD SHELL CONTAINING AMMUNITION FOR SHOOTERS? (7).
2. HE TAKES HIS COURSE FROM THE BAR AT NOON (9).
3. COUNTERS FOR LABORATORY VESSELS (7).
4. CARROLL'S JOYFUL BLEND? (7).
5. FAIR DEALER, THOUGH SHODDY (9).
6. SCRABBLE'S FIRST TRIO COPIED, BUT PLAYED BADLY (7).
7. THERE IS WATER, AIR-CONDITIONED, IN SUCH TANKS (7).
8. HE IS ABNORMALLY NERVOUS, NOTE, IN RUN-UP OVER KINGWAY (9).
9. EVERYTHING ONE STUFFED INTO FADING COVER FOR MATTRESS (9).
10. RATTLE? FRENCH ARTICLE WITH BRASS AT THE BOTTOM (7).
11. UNUSUAL DIALECT IN DOVER CASTLE, SAY (7).
12. GLOOMY IN NASTY GIANT'S LAIR? (7).
13. WHERE WITNESSES MAY FIND THE FIGURES ON THE SHEET SPECTACULAR (5-4).
14. STRAINS WITHOUT OPENING LOCKS (7).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

KALEIDOGYN

a. A false hair roll

b. A beautiful woman

c. A mirror

VILIPENDING

a. A rendering valueless

b. Hanging suspended

c. Waiting for service

KVETCH

a. A beetle-like weed

b. Russian hot chocolate cream

c. To complain or whinge

GORSIEDD

a. A gorse forest

b. A meeting of druids

c. A gorse-head or idiot

Answers on page 26

AA ROADWATCH

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Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

North Ireland 745

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WEATHER

Northern Ireland, Wales and southwestern England will be cloudy for much of the day with showers or longer periods of rain. The rest of England should start bright with cloud thickening during the day and rain arriving from the South-West later. After a few showers the northern isles should become dry with bright intervals. The rest of Scotland will have sunshine and some scattered showers.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	21/70	C	F	
Alexandria	21/70	C	F	
Athens	21/70	C	F	
Bahia	21/70	C	F	
Bombay	21/70	C	F	
Buenos Aires	21/70	C	F	
Calcutta	21/70	C	F	
Cairo	21/70	C	F	
Colon	21/70	C	F	
Hong Kong	21/70	C	F	
London	21/70	C	F	
Los Angeles	21/70	C	F	
Madrid	21/70	C	F	
Mumbai	21/70	C	F	
New Delhi	21/70	C	F	
Paris	21/70	C	F	
Rangoon	21/70	C	F	
Singapore	21/70	C	F	
Tokyo	21/70	C	F	
Yokohama	21/70	C	F	

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Cardiff	15/50	W	100	
Edinburgh	15/50	W	100	
London	15/50	W	100	
Manchester	15/50	W	100	
Newcastle	15/50	W	100	
Nottingham	15/50	W	100	
Sheffield	15/50	W	100	
Southampton	15/50	W	100	
Stirling	15/50	W	100	
Wolverhampton	15/50	W	100	

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp. Vennor, Isle of Wight, 19C (66F). Lowest day temp. Looe, Cornwall, 10C (50F). Highest rainfall. Gwent, 10.1mm (0.4in). Lowest rainfall. Gwent, 0.1mm (0.01in). Wind. 1000 mph (160 kmph).

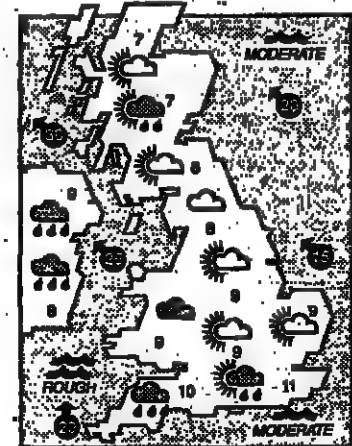
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 6 am to 6 pm 15C (59F). min 6 pm to 6 am 10C (50F). Rain 24hr to 6 pm 0.11 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm 0.2 in.

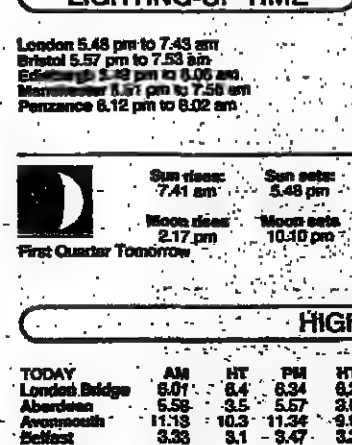
GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp. max 6 am to 6 pm 14C (57F). min 6 pm to 6 am 10C (50F). Rain 24hr to 6 pm 0.11 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm 0.2 in.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.48 pm to 7.45 am
Bristol 5.57 pm to 7.53 am
Edinburgh 6.07 pm to 8.03 am
Manchester 6.12 pm to 8.08 am
Perth 6.12 pm to 8.02 am

YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	15/50	W	100	
Birmingham	15/50	W	100	
Blackpool	15/50	W	100	
Bristol	15/50	W	100	
Cardiff	15/50	W	100	
Edinburgh	15/50	W	100	
London	15/50	W	100	
Manchester	15/50	W	100	
Newcastle	15/50	W	100	
Nottingham	15/50	W	100	
Sheffield	15/50	W	100	
Southampton	15/50	W	100	
Stirling	15/50	W	100	
Wolverhampton	15/50	W	100	

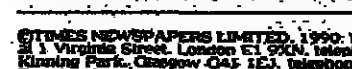
TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at the following times today: 11.00am and 12.45pm.

HIGH TIDES

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15/50	W	100	
Birmingham	15/50	W	100	
Blackpool	15/50	W	100	
Bristol	15/50	W	100	
Cardiff	15/50	W	100	
Edinburgh	15/50	W	100	
London	15/50	W	100	
Manchester	15/50	W	100	
Newcastle	15/50	W	100	
Nottingham	15/50	W	100	
Sheffield	15/50	W	100	
Southampton	15/50	W	100	
Stirling	15/50	W	100	
Wolverhampton	15/50	W	100	

NOON TODAY



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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

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BUSINESS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 25 1990

Smiths not
interested
in buying
Ferranti

SMITHS Industries, the aerospace, medical systems and industrial products manufacturer, has looked at and rejected Ferranti International, the troubled defence electronics group, Roger Hurn, the chief executive and managing director, has revealed.

Smiths has a "war chest" of £115 million in cash to spend on acquisitions, the company announced along with its full-year figures. But Mr Hurn would not say if an immediate purchase was in prospect.

Smiths made £120 million in the year to August 4, up from £117.7 million in the previous year. A final dividend of 6.3p raises the total to 9.9p.

Of the three divisions, only aerospace, affected by strikes which cost about £5 million in the first half, failed to raise profits and the decrease in that division was just £300,000 at the operating level, to £59.7 million.

Mr Hurn said the purchase of a company which did 100 per cent of its business in the defence sector was unlikely. But the rash of failed leveraged buyouts in America, in particular was giving rise to interesting opportunities.

Saunders' move
Sandy Saunders, the company director, is to become chairman of Sunlight, the troubled USM-quoted leisure products and industrial equipment company.

It has reported losses before tax of £191,000 for the six months to end-June compared with profits of £1.41 million for the first half of 1989. There is a loss of 0.25p a share, against earnings of 3.21p. No interim dividend is being paid (0.75p).

Tempest, page 31

NSM stake sold

Smith New Court, the broker, has successfully placed Anglo United's 20.6 per cent stake in NSM, the coal mining to building products group, at 69p a share. The net proceeds of £32.1 million will go towards reducing Anglo's debt mountain, now put at about £210 million.

Tempest, page 31

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8555 (+0.0095)

German mark 2.9491 (-0.0055)

Exchange index 94.8 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1638.9 (-15.8)

FT-SE 100 2110.5 (-16.5)

New York Dow Jones 2511.39 (+17.33)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24876.88 (-421.42)

Closing Prices Page 33

Major indices and major changes Page 32

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%

3-month interbank 13 1/2-13 3/4%

3-month electric bills 13 1/2-13 3/4%

US: Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 7 1/2%

3-month Treasury Bills 7 1/2-7 3/4%

30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £/\$ 1.8555

£/DM 2.9491

£/Sfr 1.4625

£/FF 16.733

£/Yen 250.20

£/Indo 94.5

ECU 10.68788

ECU1 433079

SDR1 356730

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$371.10 pm \$371.10

close \$371.50-372.00 (\$190.00)

190.50

New York: COMEX \$372.30-372.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$29.65 bbl (\$28.30)

Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank Bank

Australia \$ 2.80

Belgium FF 65.50

Canada C\$ 1.17

Denmark Dkr 11.48

France FF 16.73

Germany DM 3.36

Greece Dr 339.50

Hong Kong \$ 15.75

India Rs 115

Italy Lira 200

Japan Yen 240

Netherlands Gld 3.60

Norway Kr 112

Poland Zloty 22.50

South Africa Rand 5.20

Spain Ptas 166.64

Sweden Kr 10.75

Switzerland Fr 2.00

Turkey Lira 2.30

USA \$ 1.85

Venezuela Bol 27.00

Yugoslavia Ddr 20.00

Rates for all denominations bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to interbank clearing.

Prices Prices Index: 129.3 (September)

BT calls for more telecoms competition

By ROSS TIEHAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TELEPHONE calls could become cheaper, at the price of higher rental charges, says British Telecom.

John Vallance, the BT chairman, said yesterday the company is making a "vigorous" case for more competition in the telephone network but there has to be a change in the "complex web of regulation."

In its submission to the government's review of the telephone duopoly between BT and Mercury, BT calls for telephone markets to be opened up to all.

But the price for domestic consumers, is an end to the £2 billion-a-year cross-subsidy they receive from its business customers: BT says the blow could be softened for most cus-

tomers by allowing telephone companies to supply cable television, and restructure their call charges.

Mr Vallance said: "You cannot have choice and subsidy on that scale, nor can you have proper competition with a subsidy on that scale. We are pressing enthusiastically for more customer choice, more price competition, and for less protection, both at home and abroad."

The BT submission is the culmination of a long-running campaign to break the strait-jacket imposed on its business opportunities by public service attitudes, obligations and price structures.

Mr Vallance believes the free-market theme running through the document will receive a sympathetic hearing from government. Official

proposals for a new approach to telecommunications markets are expected within a fortnight from Peter Lilley, the trade secretary.

Mr Vallance also urged the government to press American authorities to allow British telecommunications companies into domestic American markets while taking the chance to allow greater access for American competitors here. But he insisted they had no need of "feather-bedding" to match BT's financial and technical muscle. The government's duopoly review is the first large rethink on telecommunications policy since Mercury was set up to take on BT seven years ago.

In the intervening years, advances in technology and massive growth in use and applications of telecom-

munications have transformed the market place. Mr Vallance insisted that privatisation, and the introduction of competition from Mercury, had been a qualified success.

Mercury had succeeded in winning 30 per cent of the lucrative market for long-distance business calls, but spurned unprofitable domestic customers. In its duopoly submission, BT claims it fails to make an "adequate" return from 80 per cent of its customers. Business users are over-charged for calls to support domestic customers who do not meet the real cost of maintaining relatively little-used lines.

In theory, domestic rental charges, now at £19.70 a quarter should double, he said. In practice, BT argues that more flexible pricing

and a more liberal licence would enable it to sell sufficient extra services to domestic customers to make virtually all lines economic.

BT wants open competition in local and national markets. Cable television companies, 90 per cent of which are controlled by large American telecommunications companies, have licences to serve 70 per cent of Britain's population with telephones as well as television.

BT wants the right to match them with television and other services, and says television and cable operators should be able to buy use of each other's lines, avoiding expensive duplication of investment, by the end of 1993.

Comment, page 31

EC challenges
Britain on
pay restraint

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's view that unit labour costs must be reduced in the wake of Britain's entry to the exchange-rate mechanism if competitiveness is not to be lost is being challenged by European Commission evidence.

Since Britain joined the ERM, ministers and employers have stressed that wage settlements must be reduced in order to bring down British labour costs.

Speaking to the annual conference of the Institute of

Personnel Management yesterday, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, attacked employers and unions for being short-sighted in reaching high pay settlements.

He said that "the present upward trend in our unit wage costs is acutely dangerous to our economic prospects" because it is making Britain much less competitive.

The Confederation of British Industry supported this view. John Banham, the director general, said that yes-

terday's CBI council meeting was told that since ERM entry, employers had recognised that they could afford rises in unit labour costs of no more than 2 per cent.

He added that if sense did not prevail, there could be an extra 1 million unemployed by this time next year.

However, all these statements are apparently contradicted by evidence from the commission that will be raised at next week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council when it discusses pay, productivity and jobs.

In a report on *Employment in Europe 1990*, the commission casts doubt on the argument promoted by the government and the CBI.

The report says: "There is little evidence of any close relationship between relative labour costs and competitiveness, as manifested in the trade performance of each member state in the community market."

It says that those countries experiencing the lowest rates of increase in unit labour cost have not necessarily expanded their share of trade within the community more than others. The report says: "This reflects the fact that competitiveness is determined by many factors apart from wages."

Costs of production, including labour costs, are only one element in the competitive process, the commission says, adding: "Non-cost factors... can be equally if not more important and are likely to become increasingly relevant as real income grows."

CBI takes issue over
'severe' recession talk

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EVIDENCE that Britain is not in a severe recession is likely to be presented by the Confederation of British Industry in its monthly industrial trends survey next week.

The survey is widely held in Whitehall and elsewhere to be among the most valuable indicators of current industrial performance, and its findings often have a considerable impact on the markets.

Next week's survey, covering September, is expected to indicate that so far, the constraint on demand from high interest rates has not pushed Britain into a deep recession.

Its findings will contrast sharply with the results of a survey from the Association of Chambers of Commerce published yesterday which suggested Britain is already in a "severe" recession.

John Banham, CBI direc-

tor-general, would not predict the findings of the latest CBI survey, to be published next Tuesday, but he said on the basis of its results, he would argue strongly with the word "severe". The survey will show that although investment is falling, it is doing so nowhere nearly as severely as in the recessions of 1974 and 1980-81.

Investment is being cut back in plant and equipment, but not that much in training and innovation. While there is a cutback in investment, it is from a high level, and annual investment figures are expected to show that overall investment is still at an all-time high for this year.

The confederation has called for business and government to make energy savings worth up to £3 billion annually.

Polly Peck board meets
to hear Nadir evidence

By MATTHEW BOND

ASIL Nadir, Polly Peck chairman, left it until the last minute to join the emergency board meeting called to determine the future of his troubled fresh fruit to electronics group.

Mr Nadir had been expected to fly back to London on Tuesday night from his three-day trip to Turkey and northern Cyprus, where he had been trying to find the nearly £30 million required by the company's increasingly impatient bankers. If the money was not forthcoming, either Polly Peck's own directors or the 10-member steering committee representing the interests of more than 60

banks, was expected to seek the appointment of an administrative receiver.

In the event, the board meeting started without Mr Nadir. When he finally arrived, Mr Nadir was expected to say whether he had been successful in raising the money required.

Speculation about the difficulties Mr Nadir was facing was heightened by comments he was reported to have made in Istanbul. Mr Nadir said Polly Peck's Turkish assets would be protected from external intervention. "Polly Peck subsidiaries in Turkey such as the Vestel electronics

group, Meyna agriculture group and the Sheraton Voyager hotel, are the main lines of interest for us and they will be protected."

Under the standstill arrangement agreed three weeks ago, Polly Peck had until November 9 to repay some £70 million of borrowings. But the agreement also required interim repayments, with about £30 million due by this week.

At the original meeting with the banks, Mr Nadir had indicated that Polly Peck had about £70 million on deposit in northern Cyprus. In all Polly Peck's debts total over £1 billion.

NatWest en route to King's Cross

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank is leaving its head office in the City after more than 150 years. The move is part of the bank's plans to lease or sell off 600,000 sq ft of space in the City to save up to £35 million a year.

The closure of the head office at 41, Lothbury, is part of NatWest's central London space strategy. This is a four-year plan to move many of the bank's central staff to cheaper space in King's Cross, and close four of its main City branches. The company will give staff details of the move today.

The sports-minded among the bank's staff, however, can rest easy. The bank's swim-

ming pool, which runs under Old Broad Street in the centre of the City, is not affected.

NatWest will leave Lothbury in 1993. The directors, including Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, will move to offices in the NatWest tower nearby.

The decision to leave Lothbury comes after Barclays started to redevelop its Lombard Street headquarters this year. Midland Bank is also reported to be considering leaving its head office in Poultry. The sacrifice of prime City offices comes when all the banks are struggling to contain costs and support their profits.

Lothbury's closure will free

375,000 sq ft of offices as well as the branch below. The site was first occupied by London & Westminster Bank in 1834. The present building dates from 1932.

NatWest has applied for planning permission for a 160,000 sq ft building in King's Cross to move central staff. The bank already has space in four buildings in the area.

Bert Morris, NatWest's chief executive of support services, said that rents in King's Cross are less than half the £85 per sq ft cost of City space.

"We looked at moving outside London but the demographics told us we needed a



Working closely with the Soviet Union: Jacques Attali at the shareholders' meeting

Attali rules out change

JACQUES Attali, the president-designate of the European Bank, which is to help with political and economic reforms in East Europe, has ruled out any changes to the bank's constitution for the time being (writes Wolfgang Münchau).

M Attali's comments were made amid criticism that the Soviet Union might be under-represented and that the Baltic Republics, if they were to gain independence, could find themselves outside the scope of the bank. He made it clear that the Baltic Republics would not gain shareholder

status. At present, the Soviet Union has a 6 per cent stake in the bank, about the same as Britain, France and Germany.

Following a meeting of the bank's shareholders at Lancaster House, London, M Attali said: "We are working closely with the government of the Soviet Union. We have to build relations with municipalities, with regional governments and decentralised authorities. But we have only one shareholder. That is the Soviet Union."

M Attali announced the shareholders had agreed to appoint five vice-presidents

by the end of the year. No decision has yet been taken on the 2 per cent stake held by the former East Germany, after the German government decided not to increase its holding.

The bank, which is based in London, will employ 200 to 250 people.

M Attali said that the bank would become involved in a large number of small deals, rather than concentrate on a few large projects. The bank, which is scheduled to start work in March next year, is expected to make a profit by 1992.

Severn Trent
appeals on
Caird bid

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Caird Group, the waste disposal company, fell 8p to 47p after a 100p-a-share cash offer by Severn Trent formally lapsed. Severn has appealed against a Takeover Panel ruling which prevents it from launching a new takeover bid at a lower price within 12 months.

A decision is expected tomorrow but some quarters believe that it is unlikely the appeal will succeed.

The privatised water company, which holds almost 30 per cent of Caird's ordinary shares and is nursing a paper loss of £8 million, is now reviewing its options, including securing Caird's support for a lower offer.

Meanwhile, Caird is proceeding with plans to strengthen its board of directors in an effort to restore its image in the City.

Comment, page 31

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Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. The sterling equivalent of your liability under a foreign currency mortgage may be increased by exchange rate movements.

Ivory asset trusts disappoint

By OUR CITY STAFF

IVORY & Sime, the investment manager, has reported disappointing results from its asset trusts in a difficult market. Shares in Ivory & Sime fell 7p to 58p.

Pre-tax revenue at British Assets Trust, Ivory & Sime's largest investment trust, advanced from £18.9 million to £22.2 million in the year to end-September. Earnings per share rose from 3.56p to 4.17p. Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 1p, making a total of 3.85p (3.30p) for the year.

Pre-tax revenue at Investors Capital Trust, British Assets Trust's investment subsidiary, increased from £15.4 million to £16.5 million in the year. Earnings per share rose from 4.61p to 4.95p. There is a final dividend of 1.25p, making an increased total of 4.85p (4.25p).

Pre-tax revenue at First Charlotte Assets Trust fell to £95,000 (£147,000) in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share declined from 0.12p to 0.07p. As usual, there is no interim dividend.

Lionheart to tackle deficit

By OUR CITY STAFF

LIONHEART, the housewares, retail systems and DIY group, plans a capital reorganisation to eliminate a £1.9 million deficit on its profit and loss account.

The capital reorganisation, which has to be approved by shareholders and the High Court, will mean that Lionheart will be able to pay dividends out of future earnings. The company expects to clear preference dividend arrears during 1991. Lionheart returned to profit this year following extensive reshaping.

Paul Lever, executive chairman, said the move will enable the company to continue its development process. Shares were unchanged at 18p.

European Land heads £2bn project

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a £2 billion housing, business and leisure project in northern Spain were announced in London by an English-led international development group.

The project, Parque Valle de Cerrato, on 5,000 acres, will be undertaken by European Land, through a subsidiary, European Land Espana, in a joint venture with the regional government of Castilla y Leon, the provincial government of Palencia, and Gestur Palencia, business park managers.

OFT warns lenders and brokers against targeting debtors

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR



Borrie: licences at risk

LENDERS and brokers have been warned they may lose their consumer credit licences if they continue to target people in debt or with a history of debt to offer new loans, Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading, revealed yesterday.

Speaking at a conference on credit and debt in the 1990s at the University of Sheffield, Sir Gordon said that the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) had this month sent a warning letter to firms marketing credit to those who already have serious debt problems.

The letter outlined alleged malpractices, including failure to assess ability to pay, offers of inappropriate and sometimes "catastrophic loans"

and the failure to explain that high brokerage fees could be charged and deducted from the loan. It made it clear that any lenders or brokers engaged in such practices were placing their consumer credit licences at risk.

It was important where consolidation loans were offered that the borrowers understood the full consequences and were aware of the risks.

With such loans, a person with debts could borrow enough money to clear their existing debts and have only one payment to the loan company to meet each month. These loans are usually over a longer period than the original debts and the monthly payments should work out cheaper, although the amount of interest paid over the term of the loan could be substantially more.

In addition the loans are usually secured on the borrower's home, which means if they do not keep up the payments they could lose their home.

The firms approached by the OFT included those using mailing lists of debtors with county court judgments against them and those publishing advertisements aimed specifically at people with debt problems.

Sir Gordon said that debt problems may still affect only a small minority, but the level of default had risen and was significant and disturbing.

The OFT has also sent warning letters to businesses approaching tenants about their right to buy their council homes. Deceptive sales techniques had been used to persuade tenants to buy their homes when the salesmen really wanted to sell expensive and often inappropriate packages including endowment policies and home improvement loans.

Lack of compliance with credit advertising regulations in the national press, especially tabloid newspapers, had led the director to remind newspaper managers that they too could be prosecuted for publishing non-complying or misleading advertisements.

Fight attempts to undermine 1992, says business chief

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

STRONG support for full economic and monetary union was given yesterday by the principal European employers' body, coupled with a clear warning on backdoor restrictions being introduced against the 1992 programme.

Carlos Ferrer, president of the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (Unice), laid out a list of priorities for employers for the Nineties. Unice's priorities have been drawn up following a survey of the organisation's 32 member employers' federations across Europe, including both EC and EFTA countries.

Speaking to the monthly council meeting of the CBI, Mr Ferrer insisted that it was crucial for business to play a key role in the public policy debate to help shape Europe's future.

He said: "Europe is still like a piece of modelling clay which many hands are trying to shape." He gave warning that legislators still put too many obstacles in the way of business.

Listing business priorities in Europe, Señor Ferrer, chairman and chief executive of both Ferrer International, the chemical and pharmaceutical group, and of Banco de Europa, said economic and monetary union was "a perfectly logical consequence of creating a single market."

It implied very close political co-operation and he accepted that the political decisions needed to achieve

full EMU would not be easy. Completion of the internal market in the European Community was the single most important element on the Euro-business agenda. He said the concept of 1992 had already boosted investment and business confidence.

But he said: "In some of the markets that are being opened up, so-called precautionary or crisis measures are being introduced which could provide the pretext to shut with the left hand the door that has just been opened with the right hand." Business must resist such undermining of the 1992 programme, he said.

Señor Ferrer said the other priorities for business were obtaining a more favourable climate for enterprise, supporting economic and social cohesion, the challenge of change in east Europe, promoting the creation of an EC-EFTA European economic space, restricting the EC social dimension and promoting balanced environmental policies.



Growth call: Sam Smith, Bimec's chairman, yesterday

Bimec soars 122% to £2.1m for half year

By OUR CITY STAFF

BIMEC Industries, the aerospace engineering, water treatment and air conditioning group that has been built up from the ruins of Biomechanics International, has reported a 122 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the half year to end-September.

The figures, which are the first since the company moved from the Unlisted Securities Market to the main market in August, show taxable profits of £2.1 million, against £900,000 last time. The interim dividend is 51 per cent ahead at 0.5p.

Sam Smith, the chairman,

said the company would continue to pursue rapid organic and acquisition driven growth, building on its three existing divisions. The company aims to achieve turnover of about £50 million in each of its divisions within four years. Group sales were £24 million in the first half.

Bimec has made ten acquisitions since a rescue rights issue began its transformation in 1985 and has half-year borrowings of £1.4 million and gearing of 19 per cent. Mr Smith said all three divisions were still experiencing strong demand.

Figures point to US slowdown

From JOHN DUNNE
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN durable goods orders fell by an unexpectedly high 1.7 per cent in September with transport orders down by 6.8 per cent.

The figures, further evidence of the slowing economy, came after an August decline of 0.8 per cent and helped to send the bond market down slightly, with the 30 year Treasury bond down to yield 8.8 per cent after opening at 8.79 per cent.

Durable goods orders have fallen 0.5 per cent in the first nine months this year compared with last year and Dr Neil Ross, a First Boston economist, said: "If we excluded aircraft orders the decline would be much greater. But it must be remembered the US economy is suffering a sclerosis type downturn rather than any dramatic slump."

The September figures do not include Boeing's record \$22 billion order from United Airlines, which brought its orders for aircraft to 57 last month.

Orders for non-defence capital goods rose 6.3 per cent, which indicates American companies are still investing in new capital equipment, but the monthly figures compare with a drop of 9.9 per cent in August.

Shipments of durable goods fell by 3 per cent.

Wall Street had expected durable goods orders to show a slight increase, but the markets slipped in early trading on a combination of the worse than expected figures, a rebound in oil prices and growing concern about the failure of Congress and the White House to reach an agreement on the budget.

'UK inflation will fall'

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will achieve and sustain core inflation below 4 per cent in the Nineties, irrespective of the political party in power, Roger Bootle, the chief economist at Midland Montagu, said.

He told a City seminar that this would be against a favourable worldwide inflationary background. A study

by Midland Montagu identifies membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System as a key building block.

It also says that the government should radically extend the scope for Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts to help restrain domestic demand.

Brent Walker faces deadline

By MARTIN WALLER



Walker: strict timetable

BRENT Walker, the leisure group where George Walker is chairman and chief executive, must publish details of its controversial convertible bond issue and reveal the identities of the participating shareholders by the start of next week.

The deadline, rather firmer than the series of self-imposed targets the group has missed, is imposed by the International Stock Exchange's strict timetable.

Shareholders must approve the issue by the time the exchange grants a listing — by November 15 at the latest — and the necessary shareholders' meeting needs two weeks' notice.

A spokesman for Brent Walker said the further delay was because of the extreme complexity of the issue, which he described as a "lawyers' minefield".

He added: "There's nothing serious in it. It's going to happen. Smith New Court (Brent Walker's broker) says the money is guaranteed."

Meanwhile, Brent Walker has been granted approval by the Office of Fair Trading for the management buyout of the company's Goldcrest film offshoot.

The company hopes to provide details of the deal along with those for its convertible issue.

Medeva in £18m drugs sale

By PHILIP PANGALOS



Taylor: net asset boost

MEDEVA, the medical research and pharmaceuticals company, is selling its over-the-counter range of drugs, which include Degadin, Mycil and Nylax, to Crookes Healthcare, a subsidiary of Boots, for £18.5 million.

The consideration will consist of £15 million in cash on completion and £3.5 million payable within two years.

The sale will enhance Medeva's pro forma net asset value by about £16 million.

Medeva's OTC drugs made operating profits of £1.24 million in the year to end-June on sales of £3.82 million.

Bernard Taylor, Medeva's chairman, who was a former

chief executive of Glaxo, said the sale would significantly strengthen the company's financial position and enable it to take advantage of investment opportunities.

Production at the company's Bradford, West Yorkshire, plant will continue until the factory's closure late next year.

After closure costs and expenses, net sales proceeds are expected to be £18 million. The sale should be completed this year, but is unlikely to have a significant effect on the company's trading results for 1990.

Medeva's shares firmed by 4p to 70p on the news.

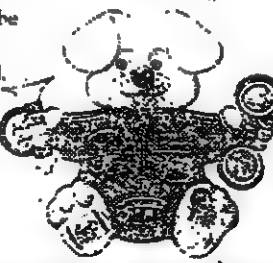
PRODUCT RECALL NOTIFICATION

Blue Box Ltd have learned of a possible fault with a toy product being sold under the names of Activity Doggie or Play Doggie, which may prove hazardous.

The item is sold in two different packages: Blue Box Activity Doggie and Chad Valley Play Doggie.

As a precautionary measure, anyone who has one of these toys should remove it from use immediately and send the complete product (including the strips) to the address below where it will be modified and returned at no charge. All postage and packaging will be refunded. Return to:

Blue Box Toy Factory (UK) Ltd,
Rugby Mill, Course Street,
Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs.



East's gloomy super-savers are hungry to spend

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

HUNGARIANS are among the most pessimistic East Europeans, despite the country's reputation for being the region's fastest economic reformer, according to an East European consumer survey conducted by MAI Information Group, the market research company, on behalf of 12 multinational companies.

East Germans and Yugoslavians are the most optimistic, while Russians join the Hungarians as the most pessimistic about the quality of life in the next five years.

MAI claims its survey is the first in-depth analysis of consumer behaviour and attitudes

in East Europe. The people of the area have among the highest savings ratios in the world — about 20 per cent — which is partly due to short supplies of some luxury products. This compares with a savings ratio of about 8 per cent in Britain.

The most coveted product in East Europe remains the Western car and, perhaps surprisingly, video recorders, which are more popular than other durables, such as washing machines, freezers, and even colour television sets.

The survey also brings good news for the West's tobacco producers, as Western cig-

arettes are among the goods East Europeans desire most. Many products that have become less fashionable in the West will be in strong demand, as East Europeans appear to desire not only tobacco (54 per cent of Yugoslavs claim to be regular smokers), but also alcohol, soft drinks and sweets. The best known western brands in the region are Pepsi Cola, followed by Coca Cola, and Nescafé.

East Europe should also be a good market for breweries, as beer is the most popular alcoholic drink. The eastern Germans top the league world-wide, with one third of consumers drinking beer every day while 63 per

cent drink at least once a week. East Europeans also like cakes, biscuits and chocolate.

One of the strangest findings of the survey is that while a holiday in Southern Europe, or even further afield, is regarded as desirable throughout the region, the Poles say their favourite holiday location is Poland, followed by Belgium and Luxembourg.

Mia Bartoszewski, the managing director of MAI, said that Britain's efforts to invest in East Europe were "minimal". The most eager to invest were the West Germans, followed by the Austrians and the Italians.

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The two faces of British Telecom

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

It is just as well that the British Telecom submission to the "diopoly review" is designed to sell ideas to the government rather than shares to the public. The picture BT paints of itself in the submission is not a pretty one, for it depicts a company barely covering the cost of its capital and suffering a heavy cash outflow each year, with mounting gearing.

The picture, of course, is selective, but it is nevertheless accurate, and demonstrates the difficulty of providing a commodity service in an era of high interest rates. BT's return on capital employed has been edging up since privatisation, from 19.5 per cent in the year to March 31, 1986, to 21.2 per cent in the latest financial year. Much of the increase has come, as it had to, from the progressive improvement in BT's efficiency, and the upwards curve is gradually flattening as each step towards greater efficiency becomes more difficult to achieve.

Against that 21.2 per cent return on capital, BT puts its cost of capital at between 22.5 per cent and 24.5 per cent. Capital

expenditure at BT is running at more than £3 billion a year, excluding such questionable investments as the stake in McCaw. This is not covered by cash flow. City history is littered with the corporate corpses of companies who lived beyond their means. Clever companies these days manage for cash.

The figures in the submission are, of course, genuine enough and there is reason to be concerned at the growth in BT's gearing. Companies that invest in assets that have to be written down substantially as soon as they are purchased really should try to keep their investment, over the long term, within their operational cash flow. Otherwise, borrowings simply mount.

But beyond that, BT is in fact sitting rather pretty. There is still considerable scope for increases in productivity, improvements arising both from the investment programme and from the gradual elimination of all the Spanish

practices which characterised the old nationalised monopoly. It is likely that the government will have to give way to BT's demand for charging flexibility in the light of the well-presented argument on the "cross-subsidy" which takes place between providing the lines and selling the calls. "Calls" are subsidising "access" to the tune of about £2 billion a year, and one of the first moves towards the introduction of further competition will have to be to address that imbalance. It can only be to BT's advantage.

The current rating of BT shares, a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 8 or a 15 per cent discount to the market average, suggests too little attention is being paid to the

prospective benefits to arise both from the outcome of the review and from the high rate of capital spending.

Caird debacle

The Takeover Panel should keep out of the manoeuvring for position in the wake of the Caird bid debacle. Barring the entry of a brave third party, the sensible solution is for a new lower bid to be negotiated, effectively with the waste group's remaining shareholders over the head of the board.

The apparently sharp opportunism of John Bellak's Severn Trent in dashing in a bid just after Caird's dismal profit

and forecast wrecked its street credibility in the fashionable green sector has, thus far, merely garnered some of the egg from the face of Peter Linacre, the chairman of Caird. With Caird shares down to 47p on the withdrawal of the water group's 100p bid, Severn sits on an £8 million loss on its 29.9 per cent stake.

Mr Bellak and Samuel Montagu, his bankers, were none the less prescient, inserting a prominent condition in the offer that the forecast be confirmed. On a more sober accounting view, Mr Linacre failed to deliver. The blame will rest solely with him if those originally loyal Caird shareholders, who are now stuck with a stock that once topped 230p, have to make do with the much lower bid Mr Bellak still wishes to make.

Caird's corporate credibility is irrecoverable. On top of the profits, losses and cosy deals, Mr Linacre failed to disabuse a series of City analysts who put out

estimates of its licensed capacity featuring a wild over-optimism that varied only in degree.

Piece of string

Caird is the latest of many to find the relationship between profit and loss account and balance sheet proves far from clear under scrutiny. Optical and Medical International explained to its shareholders yesterday why a retrospective accounting change has cut pre-tax profits from £7 million to £6.1 million after the board was told that its stated eight-year practice of adding head office overheads to the cost of acquisitions was dubious. The message for share analysts is that those who rely solely on profit figures and precise price to earnings ratios need to visit another kind of analyst. The message for David Tweedie's Accounting Standards Board is that it must not consign the balance sheet to theoretical oblivion if that makes profits as long as a piece of string. A fundamental rethink is vital.

Dog fight threatens over United masterstroke



Leaving: A Pan Am jet takes off from Heathrow

Heathrow operations as a complete replacement of their business, and that would be allowed under the Heathrow rules. We also believe that permission should be forthcoming from the US Department of Transportation for the whole arrangement to go ahead by the end of the year.

What has most shaken the aviation world is the speed with which Stephen Wolf, United's chairman, has acted in the last two weeks after the ending of uncertainty about its future caused by a management buyout bid.

Within days of the bid failing he announced the biggest single aircraft order ever for 68 Boeing 777 twin jets and 80 Boeing 747-400 jumbos worth, in all, more than \$2.2 billion.

This was followed by obtaining approval for a new route to Madrid and winning the confidence of the airline's main shareholders for his long-term development plans.

most sanguine of the airlines over the proposed takeover. "They will be competing directly with us on five routes which Pan Am do already," said a senior BA official last night. "But we have 18 gateways in the United States and still need United to help provide custom from the American heartland for us." United, too, said there was no reason why the marketing agreement should not continue.

For other US carriers such as Delta and Northwest, who would love access to Heathrow, the deal was a major and welcome change.

Michael Bishop of British Midland, renowned for his ability to tweak the noses of the big and powerful airlines, was in no doubt. "I do not see how this deal can be implemented," he said.

"As I read the rules, United would become a new carrier into Heathrow and once Pan Am moves out all their slots would go back into the pot for the scheduling committee to redistribute. We would certainly be looking, for example, to take over those vacated on their fifth freedom route to Europe and turn them into direct British services."

As the positioning went on last night, Pan Am employees were trying to find out what their future would be. Two of their flights — to Detroit and Miami — would be moved to Gatwick and there would be an increase in operations to other European destinations, at least ensuring that many of the 1,000 Pan Am staff in Britain would remain employed.

Pan Am's Pacific routes, whose sale to United was forced on the struggling airline four years ago by mounting losses, have improved by 30 per cent a year under the United management and it is expected that Pan Am's Heathrow routes would show similar increases, giving even greater job security.

That is always provided that the ambitious deal unveiled yesterday fits its way past the many obstacles which are bound to be put in its way by rival airlines.

HARVEY ELLIOTT
Air Correspondent

Smiths regains lost ground to outstrip expectations

DEFENCE stocks remain resolutely out of fashion, events in the Gulf notwithstanding, but the underperformance of Smiths Industries shares over the past ten months looks decidedly overdue.

For one, Smiths is not strictly a defence stock; the company is chary of giving the correct figure, but rather less than a third of profits probably now comes from the arms industry.

For two, its involvement in defence avionics is at the least vulnerable end; largely in America, and even there Smiths mainly supplies the bread-and-butter military craft rather than the riskier programmes like the B-2 and Star Wars.

For a third, on Smiths' own calculations, for every dollar spent on civil avionics, the military will spend more than \$4 up to the end of this century, even after the end of the Cold War.

Finally, the company's ability to fly itself out of turbulence was ably demonstrated by yesterday's full-year figures, which showed pre-tax profits comfortably ahead of expectations at £120 million against £111.7 million.

Smiths has caught up admirably in the second half, after £5 million came off interim aerospace profits because of strikes. Second-half margins comfortably exceeded those in the first half across the group, even in the industrial group which depends heavily on the British economy and the building and consumer sectors in particular, while the medical side saw an exports-led boost.

Smiths' recession-proof qualities are highlighted by a

cash pile swollen from £96 million to £115 million at the year-end that it appears in no hurry to spend. It is tucking away £9 million below the line for unspecified restructuring within avionics.

The shares, almost £3 at the start of the year and only 20p lower in June, managed a 3p rise to 205p yesterday as some analysts upgraded their forecasts for the current year. Pre-tax profits of £131 million would put the shares on a rating of less than 7. No need to chase for now; but that rating can only improve with the market's perception of the company.

Sunleigh

THE arrival of Sandy Saunders, the company doctor, as chairman of Sunleigh will be welcomed by investors who have seen shares in the leisure goods and industrial equipment concern fall from 80p in mid-1989 to just 17p.

However, pre-tax losses of £191,000 for the six months to the end of June, against profits of £1.41 million for the first half of last year, give some indication of the scale of the task which confronts him.

The damage has been caused by the industrial products division, a supplier of capital goods to industry, which saw trading profits fall from £869,000 to £171,000. Mr Saunders has made it clear that the division has no long-term future within the group, yet this is no time to be making distress sales, particularly in the full glare of publicity.

Given the urgency that exists to dispose of a division that is proving to be such a burden on the more profitable

leisure division, a joint venture agreement is more likely than an outright sale, the benefits of which would not have an immediate impact on the bottom line.

Sales at the leisure goods division rose 70 per cent to almost £4 million, yet trading profits advanced by only 4 per cent to £894,000, reflecting increased pressure on margins as a result of higher marketing costs and strong competition. Commission income from a golf village development in Tenerife will begin to filter through next year, but this is clearly a long-term project.

The best news for shareholders is that the latest figures were peppered with exceptional and extraordinary charges, suggesting that Mr Saunders has left no stone unturned in his early efforts to return Sunleigh to profitability.

Profits of no more than £700,000 should be expected for the full year, with earnings of just 1.5p a share. The prospective multiple of 11 is still demanding for newcomers, but investors already locked in can do worse than remain patient.

NSM/Anglo United

SMITH New Court's accomplishment in getting away 20 per cent of the share capital of NSM was exemplary, given the pitfalls exposed by recent bought-deals. In taking the shares on at 69p against a market price of 72p, it had not left itself much room for manoeuvre, but got them away at a 4p profit, and pocketed the best part of a quarter of a million pounds.

SNC's success says much for the increasing rehabilitation of NSM, the former Burnett & Hallamshire, which only last February struggled to find takers for its £49 million rights issue.

NSM is still thought capable of beating last year's profits, at £27 million, and producing 7.8p earnings. Interims of about £9.5 million (£10.6 million) are expected next month. Evaporating bid hopes have undermined the share price in recent weeks, but the influx of professional holders at the current level should help stabilise the price.

For Anglo United, the deal is a question of so far, so good. After pumping in the £32 million NSM proceeds and the £10.5 million now due from the Oilco sale, debts remain well over £200 million. However, David McErlain, the chairman, with 28 per cent of the equity, and options for more, retains far better support from the banks than many in an apparently worse position.

But then little more than a year ago Anglo was into its banks for £480 million, the entire cost of the Coalite acquisition. Now it is only £50 million shy of its end-February target. Disposing of the Charringtons fuel distribution operations could bridge the gap, although this sale was shelved when the Gulf tension and a revamping of the management revived profit expectations. It is not impossible that the banks, aware that next year's required debt repayment is only £16 million, may agree to a rescheduling. The future remains precarious, but the shares, at 28p, ought to attract a little option money.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cloth-cutting caper at Capel

RUMOURS that James Capel was shutting his trading options desk, ranked top in *Exet's* league table for the past three years, spread like wildfire through the City yesterday and prompted a rash of calls from worried fund managers all over the world. The talk, thought to have been fuelled by rival traders, began soon after the start of trading when Capel's dealers, *en masse*, suddenly walked off the Stock Exchange floor and disappeared from view. Employees of other firms, used to the brutal personnel techniques often practised in the Square Mile, feared the worst. But in place of a redundancy notice, the Capels' men were confronted with nothing more sinister than a pair of scissors and a reel of tape — to measure them for new red and white striped dealing jackets. Ten minutes later they returned to their pitch, proudly modelling the new jackets and oblivious to the enquiring glances from their associates. "I have never known a story to spread so fast," says David Heron, head of derivatives, who was later seen reassuring his troops on the floor that all was well. "The rumour must have been spread mischievously." In fact, far from cutting staff, he points out that Capel has recently recruited two new options market-makers from Smith New Court and is said to be in discussions with two more. Two weeks ago, the firm

closed its Euro-sterling convertible desk, but it is adamant that it has no plans to turn its back on the lucrative derivatives market.

Search party

THE German authorities could soon be out talent spotting to find a compatriot they can dub their very own Prince of Wales. For four burgomasters, from Spandau, Triergarten, Charlottenburg and Wilmsdorf, are due to visit Liverpool and Glasgow this week to study The Prince's Youth Business Trust in an attempt to copy it at home. The trust, which was started when the Prince of Wales visited Merseyside after the Toxteth riots, has helped 10,000 disadvantaged youngsters to launch their own businesses at a cost of about £12 million. The money to fund the trust comes from the Prince's 40th birthday appeal, which set out to raise £40 million, but has so far netted more than twice that sum in donations and pledges. But as the trust's officers proudly point out: "The Germans are going to need someone with spectacular charisma and a suitable birthday if they are to do the same."

Greenmail

NEARLY a year to the day after winning its £13.5 million battle with the Hoylake consortium, BAT Industries has published a book of cartoons to commemorate the event. The collection of 18 cartoons, including four by City Diary

cartoonist Keith Waite, is entitled *Hot Hot Hoylake*, and is being sent to BAT's advisers as a token of appreciation. But surprisingly there are no plans to include Sir James Goldsmith, Kerry Packer or Lord Rothschild on the mailing list. "We can now concentrate on running the business rather than fighting off environmentalists," says a BAT spokesman, adding that the collection will not be available through bookstores.

HEALTH warning with a difference seen at the bottom of a circular issued by regional stockbroker Wise Speke for Newcastle United Football Club: "Buying the shares probably won't make anybody rich but we sincerely hope it will make many people happy."

Square meals

OXFORD undergraduates seeking a Square Mile career have been casting a covetous eye over Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank. For the firm has become legendary for the quantity of food and drink it serves on the annual student recruitment drive, otherwise known as the milk round. "The better the firm, the greater the quantity of food," says one student on the present milk round, now in full swing, who joined 200 colleagues for Goldman Sachs' meeting at Oxford's Randolph Hotel last week. "People tried to get at the food before the end of the presentation. There was almost a riot." Rival employers such as County NatWest, Morgan

Stanley and Arthur Andersen apparently provide an adequate amount to eat, but legal firms are known to be miserly. "We were worried there was too little food," said a spokeswoman for Goldman Sachs, which took on just four trainee analysts from Oxford last year.

Taking a pounding

TIM Congdon's new mantle of Honorary Professor of Economics at Cardiff Business School has apparently not persuaded him to adopt a more polite tone with fellow scribblers. Last night he used the Bank of Wales lecture at Cardiff to deliver a merciless salvo. The blame for mismanagement of the economy, he said, lays squarely with that majority of British economists who have no time for monetary and credit variables when assessing the macro-economic position. This compounds the problem of a policy-making establishment that prefers to base monetary policy on the pound rather than domestic monetary conditions. While Whitehall has been pointing fingers at ex-chancellor Nigel Lawson, the "prof" argued that it was the misguided views of economists that were largely to blame for the latest bout of inflation. He said the economic troubles might be called the "revenge of the 364", referring to the 1981 letter in which 364 economists said monetarist policies would cause a permanent slump.

CAROL LEONARD

Ex-Mitsui employees arrested for tax evasion

MITSUMI Trust and Banking has become the second Japanese bank to have its name entangled in a widening stock market scandal after two former employees were among four businessmen arrested for evading taxes on income from dubious share deals.

The four men evaded about ¥1.83 billion (£7.38 million) in taxes on profits of ¥3.07 billion they made after buying shares on inside information provided by Mitsuhiro Kotani, head of the Koshin group of stock speculators.

In return, the bank employees lent money to Mr Kotani for his speculative investment syndicate. Mr Kotani was arrested and indicted in the summer for manipulating Tokyo share prices.

An accountant and a company executive, customers of Mitsui Trust who also made money on Mr Kotani's advice, were also arrested.

A Mitsui Trust spokesman said it had temporarily cut the salaries of 12 Mitsui Trust directors for failing to spot what was going on.

The chairman of Sumitomo Bank resigned recently after a former branch manager was arrested for making illegal loans to Mr Kotani.

The four men arrested yesterday were Tsunetaka Seto, a former deputy manager at a Tokyo branch of Mitsui Trust, Haruki Matsuo, a former clerk at the same branch, Nobuyuki Ito, a tax accountant and head of a property company, and Taisuke Kobayashi, an executive of Mr Ito's property firm.

JOE JOSEPH
in Tokyo

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Whitbread (A) (as)	Breweries	
2	Low (Wm)	Food	
3	Sevens (T)	Food	
4	Hawley (S) (as)	Industrial E-K	
5	Martell	Building/Roads	
6	Ashtley Group	Food	
7	Brake Bros	Food	
8	Scot & New (as)	Breweries	
9	Power Corp	Property	
10	Everett	Electricals	
11	King & Stevens	Bank/Finance	
12	South West	Water	
13	Frogmore	Property	
14	Sterley	Building/Roads	
15	Vaux Group	Breweries	
16	Wace	Paper/Print/Adv	
17	Pittman (as)	Industrial E-K	
18	Thames Water	Water	
19	Anglian Water	Water	
20	Dunelm	Electricals	
21	LWT Co	Insurance	
22	Glencon (M)	Building/Roads	
23	Johnson Cleaners	Industrial E-K	
24	Usher Walker	Paper/Print/Adv	
25	Unigate (as)	Food	
26	Angill (as)	Food	
27	Ocean Wilson	Transport	
28	Burmah (as)	Oil/Gas	
29	Proving	Building/Roads	
30	Whitman	Industrial E-K	
31	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
32	Crabtree	Electricals	
33	Arden	Property	
34	Gestner	Industrial E-K	
35	Kwik-Fit	Automotive	
36	Ulman (as)	Oil/Gas	
37	Wick Water	Water	
38	RMC Co (as)	Building/Roads	
39	Vital	Draper/Stores	
40	T & S Stores	Draper/Stores	
41	Lung U	Building/Roads	
42	Wheway	Industrial E-K	
43	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
44	Granada (as)	Industrial E-K	

Please take into account any minus signs.

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Patricia Jackson, of Judd Street, central London.

BRITISH FUNDS			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

UNDATED			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

INDEX-LINKED			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

ELECTRICALS			
1990	High	Low	Mid
1000	1000	1000	1000

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities depressed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end November 2. Settlement day November 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 32)

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

BREWERIES						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

BUILDING, ROADS						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

FINANCE, LAND						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

FINANCIAL TRUSTS						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

FOODS						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

HOTELS, CATERERS						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

S-Z						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

ELECTRICALS						
1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
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1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

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1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
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1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

1990	High	Low	Mid	Change	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000			

Ex dividend Ex at Forecast dividend A interim payment passed P Price at suspension of dividends and year end a special payment P Pre-emptive rights a Forecast earnings a Ex other Ex rights a Ex scrip or share split T Tax-free No significant data.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older has increased by 50% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

Carrying Britain's high standards into Europe

The European Commission's proposed ban on the sale of products that do not carry recognised quality certificates has given fresh impetus to the government's Quality Assurance programme. Until now, the campaign, which aims to strengthen the international competitiveness of UK companies, has had to rely on persuasion to promote the importance of quality and encourage companies to get third-party endorsement.

The prospect of mandatory certification will be discussed at the first council meeting of the European Organisation for Testing and Certification (EOTC), which begins today in London. Formed after an EC resolution taken late last year, the organisation's objectives are to agree on globally recognised standards and discuss ways of eliminating unnecessary duplication of tests.

The new organisation is to be an autonomous unit in which participation will be voluntary. It is seen as having a catalytic role in bringing together and giving administrative support to those interested in developing mutual recognition agreements.

Paul Hewlett, the secretary of the National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies

The UK is at the forefront of moves to enforce a code of quality for products sold across Europe after 1992, Patricia Tisdall reports

(NACCB), the UK representative and host, says: "If trade in the single market is to flow freely, customers need assurances of quality. Buyers may not be aware of the reputable certification bodies outside their own countries. It is the purpose of accreditation to identify them. This meeting should take the first steps in setting up a common European set of benchmarks so that accredited certifications can be internationally relied upon."

The council is the first of its kind, although similar arrangements are developing in other European countries. Its formation followed a recommendation by the 1982 white paper, "Standards, Quality and International Competitiveness", that a unified national accreditation system and recognisable accreditation mark be established. The council's job is to watch the watchdogs — to assess the technical competence of certification bodies and the effectiveness of their management systems, and to make recommendations to the trade and

industry department (DTI) secretary.

Companies that are accredited by certification bodies obtain the right to use the symbol of a golden crown (signifying government) and a tick (signifying approval). Although established under the Royal Charter of the British Standards Institution (BSI), the NACCB is independent of the BSI. Its aim is to develop quality assessment procedures that encourage excellence, even when no BSI standard exists.

One of the criticisms made in the white paper was of the variable quality of British standards: in some areas they lead the field, while in others they are obsolete. Equally, they are not always sufficiently clear and specific for regulatory use. The government's objective is not to promote British standards regardless of their quality, but to encourage reliance on standards that hold sway in world markets.

The council's impartiality enables it to monitor the performance of BSI Quality Assurance;

the institution's commercial certification division, on the same basis as any of the 14 smaller certification bodies that have been granted national accreditation.

Some accredited certification bodies, such as Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance, which in February 1986 became the first to be granted accreditation, have a wide scope of activities. Its sector-based schemes range from non-ferrous cast and wrought products (Association of British Brass Founders) to welding plants (Welding Distributors' Association). Others, such as the Ceramic Industry Certification Scheme, accredited in July 1987 and dealing with only clay bricks, roofing tiles, pavers and bathroom sanitary ware, are specific.

An organisation can theoretically obtain certification in up to four categories: quality management systems (to BS 5750), product conformity, product approval, or personnel engaged in quality verification.

In practice, all 15 accredited bodies operate in either of the first two categories. The task of the council, whose members represent the interests of industry, government, local authorities, trade unions, retailers and consumers, is to assess the technical competence of certification bodies and the effectiveness of their quality management systems. Assessment is carried out in line with a published criteria of competence.

Certification bodies are expected to look at management attitudes as well as ensuring that every stage of the process is correct. This is in accord with "total quality" definition, which emphasises customer satisfaction and operates throughout an organisation.

The chairman of Rank Xerox (UK), Sir Derek Horby, the NACCB chairman, once said: "We make all sorts of things that we thought were super and we tended to go to the customer and say: 'Look at this marvellous box we have got for you', without really finding out what he wanted. It was only when we got to the customer that we realised that we have now got not just a quality programme, but a total quality programme right throughout the company."

Mr Hewlett, who moved from



Paul Hewlett, of the accreditation council: "If trade is to flow freely, customers need assurances of quality"


ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION BODIES			
	Date of reg	Accred category*	Reg no
Associated Offices Quality Certification, Longridge House, Longridge Place, Manchester M20 4DT (061-833 2295)	May 1990	1	014
ASTA Certification Services, 23-24 Market Place, Rugby, CV21 3DU (0783 578435)	June 1989	1	010
BSI Quality Assurance, PO Box 376, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, MK14 6LL (0906 220508)	Jan 1987	1 & 2	003
British Approvals Services for Electric Cables, Silbury Court, 360 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2AF (0906 891121)	April 1987	1	004
Bureau Veritas Quality International, 70 Borough High St, London, SE1 1XF (071-378 8113)	Nov 1988	1	006
Ceramic Industry Certification Scheme Ltd, Queens Road, Penhill, Stoke on Trent, ST4 7LQ (0782 411008)	July 1987	1 & 2	008
Construction Quality Assurance, Arcade Chambers, The Arcade, Market Place, Newark, Notts, NG24 1UD (0536 708700)	July 1989	1	012
Dei Norske Veritas, Veritas House, 112 Station Rd, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7BU (081-305 7477)	July 1988	1	013
Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Ltd, Norfolk House, Weylesley Rd, Croydon CR8 2DT (081-688 8833)	Feb 1986	1	001
The Loss Prevention Certification Board Ltd, Melrose Ave, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 2BA (081-207 2345)	Oct 1988	1 & 2	007
National Inspection Council Quality Assurance Ltd, 112 Midland Rd, Luton, Beds., LU2 0SL (0582 482783)	June 1990	1	016
The Quality Scheme for Ready Mixed Concrete, 3 High St, Hengam, Leeds, TW12 2SQ (081-841 0273)	Dec 1988	2	009
Sira Certification Services, Seighton Lane, Seighton, Chester CH3 6EG (0244 332200)	June 1989	1 & 2	011
UK Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels, Oak House, Tube Hill, Severnside, Kent TN13 1BL (0732 450000)	Oct 1986	1 & 2	002
Varsley Quality Assured Firms Ltd, Trowers Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2JN (0737 788445)	April 1987	1	005

*Category 1: Quality management systems (to BS 5750); category 2: product conformity certification. Source: National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies, 3 Bridge Street, London SW1H 9JH (071-221 6294)

the DTI in September to head NACCB's secretariat, wants impartial certification to be as accessible to small companies as to giants such as ICL, British Telecom, British Aerospace or Boots. Having had practical experience of applying quality standards as a director of Oris Elevators, he is keen to cut out bureaucratic frills and to use plain language wherever possible — a favourite analogy is a wastepaper bin as a method of dealing with non-conforming products.

Companies that employ fewer than 500 people can get help with documenting and introducing quality assurance systems. Under the quality section of its Enterprise Initiative programme, the DTI will pay half the cost of between five and 15 days of consultancy. The government's publicity message for large and small companies is that quality assurance programmes pay. While third-party certification may cost money, eliminating large errors costs far more.

Studies in the Seventies put the cost of poor quality to British industry at about £10 billion. More recently, Dr Barry Dale, of the University of Manchester's management school, said that quality-related costs ranged from 5 to 15 per cent of a company's sales turnover. Other experts estimate that manufacturing companies spend up to 30 per cent of turnover on deciding what to do with imperfect products, while for service companies, the cost may be as high as 50 per cent.



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Patricia Tisdall reports on how the Ministry of Defence is dealing with its backlog in assessments

National council gets its big break

A special bulletin sent to defence suppliers, the government has signalled that the National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies has come of age. The Ministry of Defence announced in July that in-house assessment of quality will change to external certification by an NACCB approved body from September 1, 1991.

The announcement surprised the industry by the scope of the change. It affects almost every category of supplier across the spectrum of the 10,000 companies which appear on the Defence Contract List. Although the MoD had advised suppliers a year ago that the change was needed to deal with a backlog in assessments, most companies assumed that it would be introduced gradually.

The MoD's change reinforces the overall policy pursued by the government since its 1982 white paper. Defence procurement heads a list of public purchasers identified in a review issued in 1986 shortly after the formation of the NACCB. Other sectors include building supplies, health care and purchasers of high technology equipment and software.

Priority was given to defence because of its size — its 1990/91 estimates for equipment costs are £8.3 billion — and influence. More integration of defence and civil standards will help ease the transfer of military technology to civilian use.

With encouragement from the Department of Trade and Industry a joint MoD/BSI Standards Institute review panel has been working for more than four years to speed up standardisation. An agreement reached with industry to accept assessment to BS 5750 enabled the MoD to register sub-contractor material manufacturers in 1987.

It was decided at that time that third party certification would not be extended to direct contractors until the accreditation activities of the then newly formed NACCB had been further developed. The timing of the July announcement was influenced by the expansion of the NACCB as well as the shortage of internal assessment resources. In its bulletin the MoD noted that 15 third party certification bodies had



In line for change: the Ministry of Defence is altering its way of assessing the equipment supplied to it

achieved accreditation by the Secretary of Trade and Industry by mid-1990 and that further applications were being processed.

Despite the warnings, progress has been slow. Surveys by the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA), whose members supply a cross section of products ranging from pins and carpets to battleships, indicate that less than half hold the necessary certificates at present.

The DMA has repeatedly warned members that they may find the transition from the existing Nato-related Allied Quality Assurance Publication (AQAP) registration much tougher than they think. It points out that

whereas AQAP category four, for instance, is essentially an inspection oriented system, the so-called British Standards (BS) equivalent calls for a fully fledged quality management system covering all aspects other than design and development.

Complaints have been made about the extra documentation that is needed for the transition. "Because the BS standards were produced with third party assessment in mind, they rely heavily on the evidence of records to demonstrate the effectiveness of the quality system. Whereas AQAPs make frequent use of the phrase to the satisfaction of the quality assurance representative (QAR), the BS stan-

dards hardly refer at all to the 'purchaser representative', the DMA says.

Changing to third party certification also requires the supplier to pay for the service. Costs are estimated by the DMA over a three year period at about £5,000 per supplier excluding modifications.

The government's overall view is that all sectors of public purchasing have an important role in improving the competitiveness of suppliers. They can do this by relating their requirements to national standards rather than laying down their own special criteria. Guidance has been issued to purchasing departments on the need to encourage their suppliers to

have their quality management systems assessed against the national standard for quality management BS 5750 and to use this whenever feasible instead of their own quality requirements and inspections.

The argument is that by referring to acceptance standards, public purchasers improve the status of the relevant standard, support improved efficiency in their suppliers and very often save money. The expectation is that by making a reality of a policy of "no QA assessment, no award of contract" the MoD will help generate a "critical mass" of certified suppliers which other government purchasers can also draw on.

A "hearts and minds" approach to quality assurance has been imported from the United States, and it is called total quality management. TQM means that everyone should be involved in assurance, from the board to the packaging clerk.

This requires a change of attitude throughout a company. However, more than 50 per cent of those who responded to a survey by Develin and Partners replied that they had serious difficulties in achieving the cultural change among managers. Members of the workforce saw it as an opportunity to increase their influence over the processes in which they worked.

Although TQM takes time and effort, from the chief executive downwards, its rewards are demonstrable, the survey claims. Thirty companies were identified in which financial results — return on capital — were better than the sector average. It also revealed sharp differences between the leaders and the average companies. Leaders were far more successful in meeting TQM targets, especially in profitability and competitiveness.

The introduction of TQM involves significant investment in terms of management and other staff, plus the cost of external assistance, says Nicholas Bear, of Peat Marwick McLintock.

Set against this investment, benefits can be achieved. Mr Bear gave examples AT&T, British Alcan and British Airways. The cost of quality, covering appraisal, external failure, internal failure and prevention cost, in some

The total quality management idea means complete staff involvement in assurance goals



Robert Lonsdale: techniques

companies, has been reduced from 20 per cent of sales turnover to about 6 per cent.

Brigadier Robert Lonsdale, chairman of the British Quality Association's board of management, says techniques of TQM can be applied throughout a company so that people from different departments and abilities can communicate and help each other.

Though TQM has not yet its own BS 5750 imprimatur, the BQA has adopted its own standard term and adopted an interim "working" definition pending publication of a national standard. TQM:

• is a corporate-business-management philosophy, recognising that customer needs and business goals are inseparable;

• ensures a maximum effec-

tiveness and efficiency within a business and secures commercial leadership by putting in place processes and systems to promote excellence, prevent errors and ensure that needs and goals are met without duplication or waste of effort

• involves a commitment from chief executive level downwards; so quality is achieved by personal involvement and accountability, with measurable levels of performance by all concerned.

Brigadier Lonsdale says the main issue is to find the most efficient way to implement TQM on a large scale. The starting point is the 12,000 UK companies that have achieved the transition to operating quality systems conforming with national and international standards. The next point has to be those companies that have not yet made the transition.

"Most UK companies still do not employ quality systems conforming with national and international standards," he says. "More quality assessment and certification of companies is needed, and there is a need for more registered assessors."

The cultural change was witnessed by Ron Collard, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, when he visited Japan. Visiting companies and talking about their TQM programmes, he found they had difficulty in recalling the point at which the organisations introduced total quality. He said: "The Japanese have had phenomenal success throughout the world in persuading customers their goods and services are produced to the highest standards."

MICHAEL HATFIELD

Marketing benchmark

(Michael Hatfield writes)

MQA is the brainchild of P-E International, a leading management consultancy, which entered into a co-operative arrangement with the BSI, which will promote MQA and train its assessors. MQA will have an independent chairman and governing body to ensure the impartial-

ity of its assessments. Mr Griffiths expects accreditation to take from four to nine months. The cost of the assessment will vary depending on the size of the company, but it is estimated that medium-size companies will be charged between £8,000 and £12,000, excluding the £500 application fee. If successful, a company will be able to display the MQA logo as proof that it meets the standard, but this right will be withdrawn if the company fails to maintain standards.

Getting design right

The BS number that changed the way of making things

involved all parts of an organisation, BS 5750 represented a bridge between the employee-led quality circle approach and other quality programmes instigated from boardrooms. Involving all parts of an organisation in production, from the initial design to post-delivery servicing, affected managers as well as their staff.

A second breakthrough came in getting international recognition. In 1987, a revised version of the BS 5750 standard was tailored so that it aligned with ISO 9000 — "Quality systems: Model for quality assurance in design/development, production, installation and servicing" — published by the International Organisation for

Standardisation (ISO), and to the European Standard EN 29000.

In 1982, acceptance of the standard was given a large push after its adoption in a government white paper.

In 1984, the Register of Quality Assured United Kingdom Companies, published by the Department of Trade and Industry, contained about 6,000 entries. The 1990 version, published last month, has more than 12,000.

Large companies that have BS 5750 certificates include Shell UK Oil. In introducing BS 5750, Shell says it has found that the systems provide a "corporate glue" of common standards.

Last November, the London Fancy

Box Company, whose clients include Cadbury, IBM and Avon Cosmetics, became the first in its category to receive BS 5750/IS 9002 certification. At the presentation of the certificate, Geoffrey Loosemore, the manufacturing director for Cadbury, said: "I know qualifying for BS 5750 is no easy task and requires commitment right throughout the organisation."

Companies seeking a certificate should contact one of the 15 accredited bodies and obtain a free consultation and quote. Once the company's quality system documentation has been sent to the assessment body, an assessor is appointed to examine the documentation so it satisfies BS 5750 requirements.

Assessment and certification usually take about six months. Costs for certification start at about £1,000; thereafter it is £500 for each routine surveillance.

P.T.

Move beyond manufacturing

AWARDS will be presented next month to companies and individuals who have achieved notable success in improving the quality of British products, services or processes in the last year.

The annual awards are organised by the British Quality Association (BQA), whose company membership has doubled in the past five years as the concept of quality has percolated through the business and service communities (Michael Hatfield writes).

The membership is 1,350, but the encouraging growth rate is not viewed with complacency. Brigadier Robert Lonsdale, the BQA chairman, believes growth is not fast enough. "One would not be surprised to hear that our membership includes names such as Marks & Spencer, ICI and Rolls-Royce, but it is the smaller companies that can really benefit from membership," he says.

BQA members employ professionals in the search for improved quality. By installing quality management systems, there is a greater chance of producing goods and services that qualify for BS 5750, the British quality standard.

David Roberts, the marketing director of Neville Clarke, a management consultancy which specialises in quality assurance, says BS 5750 is a "strategic tool in the market place". The registration of quality assurance gives a company an advantage in an increasingly competitive environment.

Until recently, quality assurance was concentrated within manufacturing, but it is now spreading across com-



Clive Bone: huge interest

mercial, business and local authorities, a trend reflected in the growth of BQA's sector committees. Clive Bone, the chairman of the BQA's local authorities committee, says there has been an "explosion of interest" from local councils as they apply quality assurance to fields as diverse as social services, street cleaning and education. Mr Bone says: "Interest was so great that we have had to set up specialist groups." Seventy-five councils

are members of the committee. Specialist groups include the BQA's social care agencies committee; a Sports Council committee, which is about to publish "Quality Assurance for Leisure Services" to show how leisure centres and sports grounds can attain BS 5750 certification; and an education and training committee, which attracted representatives from about 30 schools, colleges, teachers' unions and education authorities at its first meeting, held recently.

The BQA is an integral part of the Institute of Quality Assurance (IQA), the professional body for quality practitioners, whose membership is 11,000 — a 4,000 increase on five years ago. Membership involves a rigorous examination: out of 1,748 applications this year, 40 per cent failed.

The IQA regulates the standards required for membership and establishes grades of membership commensurate with specific levels of qualification and experience.

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British consumers
have learnt to
respect marks of
quality standards
on goods. EC rules
may muddy the
waters, says
Patricia Tisdall

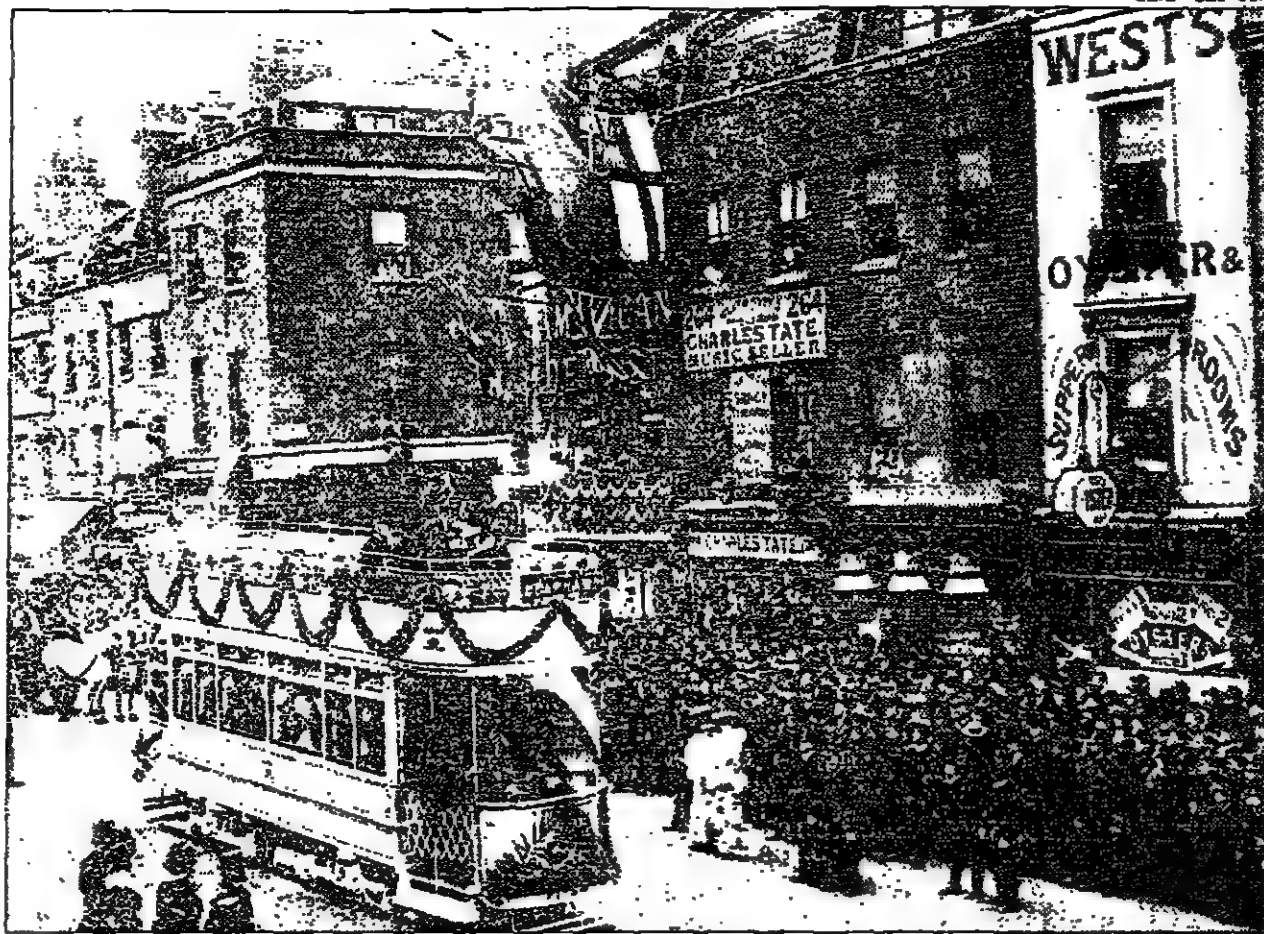
Symbols of quality assurance may require full independent certification, while others need only be endorsed by a manufacturer's declaration. The British Standards Institution (BSI) is concerned that the number of symbols used to signify compliance with EC safety directives are confusing.

Behind the BSI's kitemark and, to a lesser extent, its safety mark, lies a rigorous programme of independent assessment and tests. Not only can licences to use the mark be withdrawn, manufacturers can be compelled to recall every item if tests suggest a batch may be sub-standard.

The most famous of all the logos is the BSI kitemark, which signifies that a product conforms to a recognised British standard. A scheme of supervision and control by BSI is drawn up before each licence is issued. This involves an approval of quality control arrangements based on the BS 5750 Quality Systems Standard. A regular audit, plus regular testing by the BSI or agreed agents of a proportion of production aims to ensure continuing compliance.

First registered as a trademark for railway rails in 1903, the kitemark's history is almost as old as that of the BSI. Rationalisation of standards used to produce structural steel sections was a notably early triumph of the original Engineering Standards Committee, the forerunner of the British Standards Institution. The concerns which, in April 1901, led to the formation of the committee by the British Iron Trade Federation, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Institution of Naval Architects, the Iron and Steel Institute and, in 1902, by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, have a familiar ring.

In a letter to *The Times*, a Mr Skelton, a City of London iron merchant, said: "Rolled steel girders are imported into Britain from Belgium and Germany because we have too much individualism in this country... no two professional men are agreed upon the size and weight of girder to employ for given work and the British manufacturer is everlastingly changing his rolls or appliances, at greatly increased cost, to meet the



Opening ceremony for the first London tram. The British kitemark was originally a trademark for tram lines

Why the kitemark is still flying high

irregular unsystematic requirements of professional architects and engineers."

Some remarkable results were achieved. Within a year, the number of structural steel sections in common use had dropped from 175 to 113. Sizes used in tramway rails alone dropped from 75 to five.

Economies in production costs alone were estimated at the time as about £1 million a year, with further economies in steel merchants' costs. Standardisation also promoted the wider use of steel



The kitemark: BSI's logo proves that a product has been manufactured to a specific standard

because contractors found that sections were interchangeable, regardless of the works from which they had originated.

The use of the British Standard Mark, familiarly known as the kitemark, expanded to other products once a requirement to test every item rather than a sample of total production was lifted. In 1922, registration of the mark was accepted for all classes of product and the first licence for its use by a manufacturer was issued in 1926 to the General Electric Company for light fittings.

Having been associated mainly with engineering products during most of its early life, the kitemark was catapulted into consumer markets after the second world war. The removal of rationing and freedom from Utility restrictions released a bewildering choice of domestic products.

Associations with quality were at first eagerly, if briefly, adopted by furniture and bedding producers. By 1955, 85 per cent of mattresses were kitemarked. The bedding industry announced that British Standards and the kitemark

signalled the end of the shoddy mattress.

The kitemark's reputation as the champion of the ordinary shopper was reinforced by the formation in 1955 of an Advisory Council on Standards for Consumer Goods (later abbreviated to the Consumer Advisory Council). Intense public interest was aroused by the CAC, which organised local consumer "brain trusts", appeared on television and published its own "Shoppers Guide". This led to the government setting up a committee of enquiry in 1959 to examine the whole question of consumer protection.

Much to the BSI's relief, the Molony committee accepted that consumer protection should be a national concern and recommended the formation of a new national Consumer Council.

Less welcome was the committee's rejection in a final report made in 1962 of making kitemarking a compulsory feature of certain safety standards. By then, the BSI had become deeply involved in safety campaigns involving notably design and

testing of motor cyclists' safety helmets and car seat belts. When the BSI opened its own test laboratories at Hemel Hempstead in 1959, the biggest projects on hand involved motor-cycle helmets.

Other projects concerning burns from clothing, the design of fireguards, paraffin heaters, life-jackets and reflectors and the conversion to natural gas all helped to link the kitemark with safety in the public mind. Its reassurance on safety was used to great marketing advantage by manufacturers of pressure cookers and other products that consumers of the day thought dangerous. A modified kitemark adopted by the British Electrical Approvals Board also helped increase sales of electrical blankets and other new appliances.

Recent research shows that 30 years later, the kitemark is still widely recognised by consumers as a safety symbol. A separate Safety Mark introduced in 1975, which offers confirmation only that a product conforms to the safety requirements of a standard, did not receive much application.

The research carried out earlier this year also showed that industrialists valued the kitemark as a statement of a company's commitment to quality standards.

Big changes to achieve zero defects can benefit companies

Quality assurance is more than reaching a numerical standard of acceptability. It can mean a cultural change sweeping through a company's entire operations.

An example is the experience of 3M United Kingdom, which won a British Quality Award for its total quality process. Matchprint colour proofing is one of 3M's most important graphic products, meeting accurate colour matching specifications.

However, initial sales figures were disappointing. A task force of 3M managers was set up to find out the reason. They interviewed a number of potential buyers in the printing trade to find out what customers really wanted and the answer, in nearly all instances, was "24-hour delivery".

"Next day" delivery of material was alien to 3M's corporate culture, geared as it was to standard waiting time of four to five days, while a series of different departments — sales, invoicing control, warehouse, packing and transport liaised with each other before shipping the order.

A quality task force was assembled to study the problem and, with the backing of senior management, to resolve it. The first step was to bring together all 3M staff who were responsible for marketing and shipping the product so that they worked as a team and the lines of communication were shortened to a minimum.

Accordingly, the Matchprint sales office, inventory control, warehouse, packing and transport operations were located at the company's central distribution point in Bedford. A 24-hour delivery system was created. It required 3M to operate its own fleet of delivery vehicles from Bedford, but the costs were offset by the savings from a close-knit and more effective team operation, with far fewer errors. Matchprint sales multiplied two-and-a-half times in three years.

Quality assurance is also opening up a wider market for management consultants, who

Collating the benefits of cultural change

are introducing their own quality assurance.

The Management Consultancies Association has discussed the possibility with the Association of Certification Bodies of establishing a formula for a uniform standard of quality assurance in the area of management consultancy, and a plan should be registered by the beginning of next year.

Bill Boynton, the managing director of strategy and marketing at PE International, argues that while quality assurance has to be customer-driven and that there has to be the skilled staff and operations to meet the need, the operation falls down unless the right systems are in place.

One of the companies which brought in PE International when it was re-examining its procedures was Creda, the domestic appliance manufacturer and a leading UK producer of electric cookers. The initial incentive to install quality assurance systems stemmed from the electricity authorities' insistence that the company obtained BS 5750 registration as a producer of bulk storage heaters, says Desmond Trigg, a consultant with PE.

Creda engaged PE International to guide it through a staged programme to full quality assurance registration, the stages covering the manufacture of the heater, home laundry equipment, microwaves and cookers.

The design and development section at Creda then obtained registration to BS 5750: Part 1 — the part appropriate to its "state-of-the-art" engineering function. The last function for attention was the all-important service

department — the after-sales public face of Creda.

Mr Trigg says all of these successful BSI registrations increased the awareness of quality and Creda went on to incorporate quality assurance in the areas of suppliers, statistical process control and training to increase total staff awareness. The company is now considering a programme of total quality management.

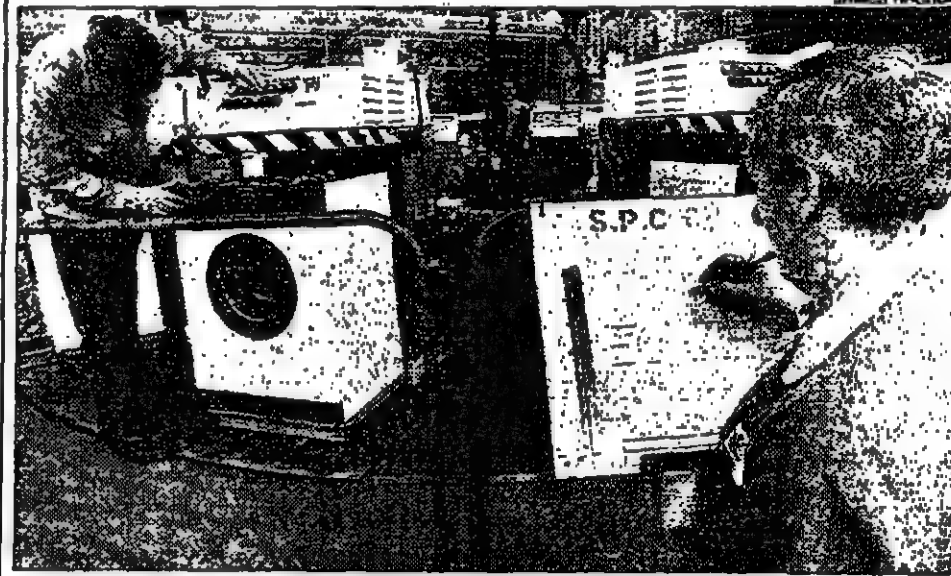
Ron Collard, a partner with Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountants and management consultancy, says quality is a long, hard slog. The struggle to achieve it is never-ending. There are three steps to achieving zero defects in products and services — the only level companies should accept, he says.

The first step is to investigate the company's quality needs. The second is to plan its quality campaign. The third is to define a quality programme. Too many companies go straight to the third stage, so their quality programmes collapse in an atmosphere of cynicism and recrimination, he says.


This was certainly not the case with Shulton GB, the manufacturer of Old Spice, which wanted to put a new face on its marketing operation. It took the TQM route by bringing together its 400 head office staff in Wokingham and factory workforce in Newcastle and explaining how it wanted to improve internal quality procedures.


Everyone in the company became involved and the culture change in attitudes brought about remarkable benefits in communications within the company and expressions of job satisfaction.


MICHAEL HATFIELD



New standards: Creda embarked on a comprehensive quality assurance programme

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Searchers after an elusive star

MARC ASPLAND

Inevitably, the health of a sport is judged by its elite. British golf is strong because it has Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam. British tennis is weak because it has no players in the leading 100 men or 50 women in the world. It is the Lawn Tennis Association's problem that until Britain produces a decent top ten player, if not necessarily a Wimbledon champion, its policies are subject to eternal damnation.

The LTA's solution is to plod slowly up the mountain. Rightly, it reasons that if more people, and particularly more juniors, are playing, the greater the chance of a champion emerging. In Germany, the rise of Boris Becker and Steffi Graf was preceded by years of investment in facilities and coaches in the clubs. Maybe it was coincidence that two great champions emerged from towns barely ten miles apart, but the gate was there for them to walk through. Becker could have played professional football. Graf could conceivably have run for her country at 400 metres. In Britain, they probably would have done so.

According to a continuous study being carried out for the Institute of Child Health, supported by the Sports Council, elite juniors have to do a round trip of 37.89 miles on average to find the main training facility for tennis. With swimming, the figure is 13.96 miles for football 21.05 miles. The cost of financing a talented junior can be as high as £3,000 or £4,000 a year. Not many parents have that much to spare.

On almost every count, from the number of indoor courts to number of tournaments and numbers of coaches, Britain lags behind the rest of Europe. But there is no point waiting to catch up. Potential champions have to be hunted down, taken out of their homes and forced to play tennis, fitness, competition, and mental endurance to kit them out for the rigours of the international circuit.

At the LTA School at Bisham Abbey, sponsored by Rover, the ten boys and four girls go to school in the mornings and practise in the afternoons. In the evening, they do fitness training with a former British sprinter, Steve Green. These are the *crème de la crème* of British juniors and they will be at Bisham for



In the second part of The Times series examining the state of British junior tennis, ANDREW LONGMORE, Tennis Correspondent, looks at the methods the coaches are employing.

three years. Nationally, their standards are high. Bisham boys won all the under-16 national titles this year. Internationally, it is rather harder to tell. The first graduates - Danny Sapsford, Ulli Nganga and Colin Beecher - are still struggling to come to terms with life as a professional and no promises are being made about the future of the current batch.

"We hope they will fulfill their potential. That's our aim," Derek Bone, the head coach, says. "It would be nonsense to say we are going to produce a Wimbledon champion here. We hope to provide a realistic jumping-off point for the professional game."

The thinking and the coaching at Bisham tends to be traditional. Get the technique right and the rest will follow. "Excellence comes only from putting in the hours and getting the right coaching early," Bone says. "It's 90 per cent perspiration, ten per cent inspiration." But what is the right coaching? Good technique to one coach might be heresy to another.

There are more good coaches coming through but there are still good coaches and bad coaches. Simon Inchington, the coach at the likely club in Yorkshire, says: "There's not too much pressure on us to say 'you've got to do it this way'. If a shot is unorthodox but works for a player, why change it, as long as the basics are right at the moment of impact? We mustn't stick by the book the whole time."

Beneath an air hall on the outskirts of Hemel Hempstead, Chris Bradnam, the first British national champion, and a psychologist, Phil Fearon, would agree with that. They are putting their own experienced theories to



Girl in a bubble: Shari-Ann Siddall, a double junior champion, seeks improvement by training in an air hall

work on a few hand-picked juniors. One, Shari-Ann Siddall, won both the under-16 and under-18 titles at the last grass-court championships at Eastbourne.

Quiet, cautious and determined, Sid, as she is nicknamed, is about as good as you can get from the present system and Bradnam had to work hard to persuade the girl's parents that he and not the LTA would be the best guide to the twisty but potentially very rewarding road ahead.

"She had developed a way to win at her level, but she needed to be stretched without hurting her confidence. It's one of the problems at the moment that our best juniors don't get the competition they need. They tend to be playing and beating the same

people the whole time," Bradnam said.

His ideas of coaching can be summed up in two words: "concentration". Instead of concentrating on a child's weaknesses, I want to look at strengths and work on those. If Chris Evert had come from Britain, for example, she would have been made to volley and play a single-handed backhand. Jimmy Connors had a dreadful approach forehand. But they worked their game round their strengths.

Bradnam says: "Instead of filling children's heads full of technique, work on what they do naturally. If a child cannot play a high backhand, don't practise high backhands for hours on end. Try and find a way to stop them having to play that

shot too often."

Psychological training is an integral part of the system at Bradnam's centre. The five girls and two boys (plus Nick Fulwood, who is aged 26) are continually encouraged to analyse their own and their opponents' games so that when the moment comes when they have to win a match, they know what to do. They are being taught the art of matchplay rather than just technique, to control their minds as well as their bodies. Each session is carefully structured and then analysed in detail.

"I've not come across one British player who really knows the strengths of his or her game. That's got to be down to the coaching," Bradnam said.

Bradnam's centre was only

opened two months ago and it is being financed almost entirely by David Evans, a former chairman of Luton Town FC and MP for Welwyn Hatfield, who has guaranteed personal backing for two years. To survive and realise his dream of a series of centres of excellence, Bradnam badly needs sponsorship. He has already chosen one boy, a nine-year-old, to join the centre next year and found another, an untoured 12-year-old from Hanwell in London, who soundly trounced an LTA national junior semi-finalist.

"The raw material is there. It just needs making up right," he says.

TOMORROW

Lesson from abroad

SPORTS LETTERS

When a fluke is not a fluke

From Mr William J. Mitchell
Sir, I have thought for a long time that a fluke in top-class snooker is not always the fluke it appears to be. And Henry Kelly's strokes on the Reading snooker crowd (October 23), while theoretically justified, are not entirely fair.

Assuming a "true" table, with no residual abnormalities in its surface and cushions, object ball aimed reasonably accurately and without inbuilt bias at one pocket, is dynamically aimed at all the pockets equally, and, if it misses the object pocket, is quite likely to travel round the table and find another pocket, by the basic laws of dynamic reflection.

If a ball aimed at one corner

pocket hits the pocket corner and skims along the cushion to the opposite corner and finds the pocket there, I find this no more reprehensible than one of Jimmy White's "doubles" which find the opposing centre pocket by reflection from the cushion.

As Henry Kelly admits, the players grin indulgently at one another after such luck, and, if the crowd goes wild, it is only because they want the player to get what he aimed for, but was denied by bad luck, as they see it.

Yours very truly,
W. J. MITCHELL,
27 Stokes Court,
Diploma Avenue,
East Finchley, N2.

Additional stars

From Mrs Verica Peacock
Sir, Your caption to the photograph of Torville and Dean (October 8), enumerating the participants in the Royal Gala held in aid of the Sports and Foundation at Brunel Leisure Centre, did not mention that disabled skiers, as well as celebrity skiers, gave a marvellous display.

The handicapped skiers, Erica Shaw, Claire Wake, Ruth Merry, Graham Nugent, Chris Clark, Sam Davey, Mike Hammond, Jonathan Morris, Mark Golay and Keith Hockey, all belonging to the National Handicapped Skiers' Association, based at Harlow and affiliated to the English Ski Council.

Most of them took part in the British Service joint ski championships at Megève, where Mike Hammond, the manager of Harlow Ski School and an amputee, came 20th overall, beating most able-bodied

skiers. They also took part in the world disabled winter olympics in America this year, bringing back several medals. The Duchess of York, patron of the Services ski championship, never fails to encourage our skiers in their endeavours.

When one realises the effort needed for ski racing when one is able-bodied, one can imagine how much more effort and courage handicapped skiers require. Therefore, it would be good to acknowledge the participation of people who make that effort.

Yours faithfully,
VERICA PEAcock,
Nash Dom,
18 Burnett Rd,
Harlow, Essex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Putting club before school

From Mr Douglas A. Raine
Sir, I used to believe that my sons should put their schools before their sports clubs if a choice was inevitable. With goodwill between teachers and voluntary club coaches, it should not be inevitable. If it is, I now believe the club should come first.

My sons go to a very local state school but rugby is played for only one term. Similarly, cricket is played for two months or so and then on generally appalling pitches. To play throughout the season, they must join local clubs, which both have done. Both clubs are like so many others, staffed by voluntary and enthusiastic coaches and both offer good facilities. The coaches need moral support and continuity to develop the team, arrange fixtures and encourage individual skills. Local sportsmasters should recognise this and support them.

The Old Albanian Club has successful under-15 and under-16 squads and has just organised a tour to Gloucester for a weekend. The success of the tour was marred when a number of boys were told not to go by a local sportsmaster or face discipline. Other schools recognised the value of the club and the tour and reorganised their own teams accordingly, and could do so by calling on some of the many boys who normally languish in the reserves.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS RAINE,
30 Marlford Road,
Whitchampstead,
Hertfordshire.

Goalkeepers must be curbed

From Mr Doug Smith
Sir, Football - what a misnomer for a game which permits two players to handle the ball unchallenged in a not inconsiderable area of the playing field.

It is the height of boredom watching goalkeepers collect the ball on the goaline, then proceed to dribble it to the edge of the penalty area with the attacking forwards running away up field. The edge of the penalty area being reached, the ball is then bounced five or six times, wasting time which appears to be of no consideration. The ball is then booted upfield and, on small playing areas as at

Highbury, more often than not there is a repeat performance. If the handling activities of goalkeepers were restricted to the goal area, the need to consider enlarging the goals would again become the spectre it was prior to the adoption of the senseless continental ruling whereby the ball is dead in the possession of the goalkeeper.

Thereby so is the game of football dead for me. Yours sincerely,
DOUG SMITH,
The Ponderosa,
8 Fernside Road,
Hereford.

Claims to a name

From Mr Gower Davies
Sir, To one born and bred in Wales it was very pleasing to note that Mr Justice Harman, in a recent case report, October 13, when told that Paul Gascoigne was a well-known footballer, queried: rugby or association football?

Why the word "football" should be taken to mean "soccer" to a Welshman, is nothing but arrogance. I queried this many years ago, with the Welsh international rugby player, who was then head of sport at the BBC. To my recollection, his

answer was that it was a flat from on high, in the BBC, that "soccer" was a rather coarse word.

Most unsatisfactory. I thought, when with American football, Australian rules football and rugby football to think that "soccer" has the divine right to be called "football".

Now, with the new World Cup (soccer) to be held in the United States, where "football" means their brand, it is high time there was another name.

Yours faithfully,
GOWER DAVIES,
11 Gell Avenue,
Rasca, Gwent.

Luck of the draw

From Mr Paul Denza
Sir, The second round of the Rumbelows (formerly Littlewoods) Cup is arranged to prevent the larger clubs from facing one another, but does the replay apply to the third round?

In the last three years Liverpool's opponents in the third round have been Everton and Arsenal (twice). This year, they face Manchester United. The chances of Liverpool facing

the winner, at a cost of £3.3d (approximately 6p). When, knowingly, I offered to pay for it I was assured that it could be changed to any dinner account.

How wrong I was. Correspondence with the Scottish Rugby Union, when letters required 1½ stamps, and paying the cost of a postal order for the amount, resulted in a joint expenditure greater than the cost of the cigar.

Yours etc,
R. O. MURRAY,
Little Court,
The Bury,
Odiham, Hampshire.

Clear distinction

From Mr Peter Brooker
Sir, With regard to the Manchester United-Arsenal fracas (report, October 22) I have no doubt that both sides deserve censure. However, there is surely a clear distinction between an excessively hard tackle and the deliberate multiple kicking of an opponent stretched out on the ground. The former is deplorable, the latter despicable.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BROOKER,
30 Hamilton Close,
Brick Wood,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A delicate touch
From Mr Antony Powes-Lybbe
Sir, One grieves for Mr Mansell in his repeated sufferings from mechanical failures ("Defeat in defeat to accept", October 22).

Yet he is lucky not to have been driving 60 years ago in the time of Patsy Thomas, who, on hearing of such misfortune, was apt to pronounce: "Gears should be changed with finger and thumb."

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANTONY POWES-LYBBE,
20 Sharncliffe,
Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

BASKETBALL

Bad habits Kingston must curb

By NICHOLAS HARLING

MISTAKES which Kingston can afford to make in domestic competition, where they can get away with them, may prove costly if repeated in the more demanding European Cup arena tonight. For Kingston's opponents in the first leg of the second round tie at Tolworth are CSKA Moscow, and the Soviets are more likely to punish errors than most of the teams in the Carlsberg League.

Kevin Cadie, the Kingston coach, acknowledges that such basic aberrations as squandered points from lay-ups and free throws cannot all be explained by the fact that he has a relatively new squad under his charge this season. But unless such individual failings are rectified, Kingston run the risk of travelling to Moscow next week with a large legacy to make up.

Steve Buckland, who has been immediately included in the England squad on his return from an unsuccessful attempt to make the grade with Los Angeles Lakers, scored 14 points for Sunderland in Tuesday's European Cup Winners' Cup tie against PAOK Salonika.

However, his contribution could not prevent Sunderland losing the home leg of the second-round tie 96-89.

Four of the Kingston players on duty tonight are in the England squad for the European Championship ties against Spain, Yugoslavia and West Germany next month. They are

Martin Clark, Martin Henlan, Mike Griffiths and Alton Byrd, who is now eligible to play for his adopted country. Byrd, aged 32, came to England from New York 11 years ago.

GOALKEEPER: G. Chisholm, M. Moore (Hemel Hempstead). A. Byrd, M. Clark, M. Griffiths, M. Henlan (Kingston). D. Brown, D. Donohue, M. Lencz (Leicester). M. Miller, P. Oates, K. St. John (Reading). P. Scudamore, C. Vaughan, S. Beckford (Sunderland). J. James, S. Smith, D. Bennett, T. Bateson (Torquay). M. Spald, R. Baker (Wokingham). J. Popley (Wokingham).

Norton's Coin is being aimed at the King George VI Chase at Kempton Boxing Day and will have one run beforehand.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL: 12.30: Brentford v. North Forest (7.0). Manchester United v. Newcastle (7.0). Second division: Stoke v. Burnley (7.0). OVERSEAS PAPERS COMMEMORATION: Oxford United v. Ipswich.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v. Galway (8.0).

OTHER SPORT: BOXING: Vacant British light-heavyweight title: Sergio Fane v. Steve McCarthy (Battersea Town Hall, Brighton, 10.00). Tony Byrne v. van Struchem (Royal Lancaster Hotel, 10.00). SPEEDWAY: Ipswich Stadium Trophy, Ipswich (8.00). Middlesex Middleweight v. Angus Lynn.

TABLE TENNIS: European League, England v. Spain (19.00). TENNIS: Midland Bank women's championships, Brighton.

SPORT ON TV: AMERICAN FOOTBALL: 18.00: National Football League. BASKETBALL: 18.00: 20.00-21.00: Highlights from the Harlem Globetrotters.

Opinion divided over implications of Dayjur's draw

From MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK

DAYJUR's draw of 13, one off the outside for Saturday's Breeders' Cup Sprint at Belmont Park may yet prove lucky for the thousands of supporters of the explosively fast European champion.

Dayjur has captured the imagination of the American public as the most exciting of British visitors. But although Ladbrokes retain the British favourite at a cramped 6-4, the Morning Line, or early forecast American betting, has Dayjur as first choice at 7-2, with Mr Nickerson, who was well beaten behind the current favourite at York in August, as their second favourite. Dancing Spruce, last year's winner, and Carson City, D Wayne Lukas's exceptionally fast sprinter, are on offer at 6-1.

The difference of opinion about Dayjur's chance is reflected in the varying views about the merits of an outside draw. The British, remembering Zayat's disastrous experience from a similar position in last year's Breeders' Cup in Miami, are despondent.

Not so the locals. Explaining the situation, Stiffington said: "There's no way Dayjur can lead all the way. Our sprinters are incredibly quick breakers and if they're taken on Dayjur will have nothing left for the finish. It's vital to be drawn on the inside. To be drawn in the hole at one is thought to be fatal. The sprinters are like rugby matches, with a lot of jostling and barging. Where Willie Carson is drawn, at 13, gives him a chance of being able to settle down and ride a waiting race."

Dick Hern arrived by Concorde last night and will be supervising Dayjur in a five-eighths of a mile workout over the Belmont dirt track this morning. But yesterday Tommy Stiffington, Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum's American trainer, was in charge as Brian Proctor

rode the three-year-old in some gentle exercise on the dirt. Once again the strongest European challenge will be for the Breeders' Cup mile, a race the French have already won three times with Lior Toccoon and Miesque twice. After much thought, Francois Boutin decided to aim Priolo at the Mile in preference to keeping the colt in reserve for the world's richest race, the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic.

"I am going for the mile a little bit against my better judgment," Boutin said. "It's a tough race whereas the classic would be easier. But the horse is very well and only time will tell whether we are right."

Ladbrokes make last year's winner, the seven-year-old Steintan, their favourite at 100-30. Their three joint second favourites are Lester Piggott's mount, Royal Academy, Distant Relative, partnered by Pat Eddery, and Priolo who have a cash cushion in the saddle.

No less than seven inches of rain have fallen in the past fortnight with a torrential downpour having taken place most of Tuesday. "The going's soft at present," said Luca Cumani. Saumarez, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, is 5-2 favourite to win the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Turf. Andre Fabre's pair, French Jockey and the Winger, are priced at 4-1 and 5-1 respectively. Cacochies, recently the winner of the Turf Classic over the track for Guy Harwood, is 7-1, but is unlikely to be helped by all the rain that has fallen.

The most disappointing field this year is for the Classic, which in the past three years has seen those marvellous confrontations between Ferdinand and Althea, Alysheba and Seeking The Gold, and last year the great match between Sunday Silence and Easy Goer.

Wyatt to stay as Tote chairman

By RICHARD EVANS

LORD Wyatt of Woodford is expected to be reappointed as chairman of the Horserace Totalisator Board for another three years despite widespread opposition within Whitehall.

The Prime Minister is understood to have brushed aside the advice of senior officials in the Home Office and Downing Street who favoured a new face from next April.

Lord Wyatt, aged 72, has been chairman of the Tote since 1976. The former Labour MP is one of Mrs Thatcher's most vocal supporters and contributes regular columns to newspapers which usually reflect his admiration of the Prime Minister and her policies.

The chairmanship of the Tote is a Downing Street-approved appointment, hence Mrs Thatcher's involvement. The Home Office, which is responsible for betting and gambling, and one of the Prime Minister's most senior aides are understood to have argued that the Tote needed a change of leader, given what they regarded as Lord Wyatt's chequered record in the position.

Officials highlighted the performance of the Tote under Lord Wyatt's stewardship compared to other bookmaking firms. The Tote covered 12 months of bets for £1 for every £25 bet by punters with other bookmakers. Mrs Thatcher, who accepted

an invitation from Lord Wyatt to visit Newbury racecourse during the summer, would not hear of such criticism, according to informed sources. Although the length of his term of office is still under consideration, three years is considered more likely than 12 months.

Lord Wyatt's reappointment will disappoint some leading figures in the Jockey Club who believe the Tote could do more to boost racing's finances. In spite of critics inside and outside racing, Lord Wyatt is proud of his record in the job. He has been chairman of the Tote since 1976, when he took over from £2,940,000, while staff numbers have been cut almost by half to 1,654.

The Tote's contribution to racing, including help with the costs of the England football team, has been £20 million in the year ending in March, compared to £489,000 in 1977.

Betting turnover has almost doubled since 1986 from £194 million to £204 million, and Lord Wyatt has forecast that Tote cash turnover could increase by a further 25 per cent when course-to-course betting comes on stream during next year. He is also hopeful that talks with High Street bookmakers will lead to the creation of national pool betting with a large jackpot on most Saturdays.

Griffiths reaps reward for patient approach

STRELL Griffiths, the trainer of this year's 100-1 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Norton's Coin, produced another fairy tale at Ascot yesterday to upstage Martin Pipe's first treble at the Berkshire course (Richard Evans writes).

Three Lakes, a six-year-old gelding who failed to reach the winner's enclosure in a brief and inglorious career in Ireland, was spotted in April by Griffiths's son, Martin, in a field near the trainer's farm near Reading.

The horse was in poor shape and looked destined for the knacker's yard rather than National Hunt glory. "He had come over from Ireland 12 months before and was going to go to a riding school but the person who bought him died."

After checking with Joe Byrne, who had trained the horse in Ireland, Griffiths bought Three Lakes and yesterday the purchase and time spent bringing the horse back to full fitness were rewarded with victory in the Ebor Novices Hurdle qualifier. "If he hadn't bought it, it would have died," the trainer said.

Norton's Coin is being aimed at the King George VI Chase at Kempton Boxing Day and will have one run beforehand.

vided the ground is soft enough. William Hill offered 3-1 against Martin Pipe beating last season's winner Norton's Coin, produced another fairy tale at Ascot yesterday to upstage Martin Pipe's first treble at the Berkshire course (Richard Evans writes).

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HUNTING NUMBER

PART 2

A full directory of foxhound packs; a detailed map of the hunting countries; Foxford on Labour's anti-hunting policy; the longest serving lady Master; Charles Barclay on horn blowing; Nicholas Budgen, MP on stag hunting.

Plus

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THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING EQUESTRIAN WEEKLY. OUT NOW

السلامة في الجبال

Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, assesses England's players and the prospects for the tour of Australia which begins today

Key figures in the fight for the Ashes

Lillee likes the look of England bowlers

NOTHING concentrates the mind quite so well as a short, sharp, shock. On the face of it, Graham Gooch's latest mis-hap seems to have given England's Ashes tour the most disturbing of starts, a recurring nightmare. But, as the damage is limited, the alarm need not be in vain.

Gooch bestrode the English summer so royally that one could easily be lulled into false security. All would be well in Australia with this man in charge—and, after two broken bones, his injuries were obviously behind him. The fallacy of all this has struck home like a blunt instrument in a dark alley.

England's active service began, earlier this morning, in an exotically named suburb of Perth, Lilac Hill. It began with Gooch in the frustrated state in which he finished both the Caribbean tour in April and the English season in September—one hand figuratively and literally behind his back, dressed, protected and incapacitated.

Out on the field, authority had passed to the short, bustling figure who, for all his medals on other campaigns, finds himself pigeon-holed as a suspect leader with a modest record in Australia. Such suggestions will have him bridling, for he is a sensitive man, but this is the tour on which Allan Lamb has the chance to lay all reservations to rest.

His role is more vital than any he has been accustomed to, on six previous overseas tours, and the manner in which he handles it could have an appreciable bearing on the five-Test series which forms the substance of this far flung

and diversified four-month trip.

Lamb has never made the same impact against Australia as against the West Indies, where his confrontational batting is hugely admired. In two previous Australian tours, he has not made a Test century, on his last, four years ago, he averaged only 18.

Then, as before, he was simply one of the lads, a part he played to the full. Lamb has never been less than busily inventive with his leisure hours and there were those who felt that a touring reunion with his kindred spirit, David Gower, was reason enough either to omit Gower or to find another vice-captain.

If the selectors were not correct and courageous in every decision, they certainly deserve credit for ignoring that particular theory. Gower is quality. He has scored seven centuries against Australia, who would far rather he had been left behind. Enough said. As for Lamb, this assignment will be the measure of his maturity. He holds a pivotal batting position and he must not only support Gooch but, at times like the present, emulate his influence, an area in which he has hitherto been lacking.

At the age of 36, Lamb may not retain any realistic ambition to succeed Gooch, who is a year older, as captain, but even within his own sphere of responsibility, he has a rival, 14 years younger, demonstrating sound temperament and charged with job of almost equal significance on this tour.

So far as leadership is concerned, Michael Atherton's time will come. He need

not be rushed. His batting is a different matter. Virtually unopposed to the Australians, he has developed into a model of technical excellence, high on concentration, low on indiscretion.

Already, there have been rumblings from Wayne Larkins that he wants his old job back, going in first. Fair enough. Competition hurts nobody. But although I initially thought it wrong to convert an established No. 3 like Atherton, he has adapted so smoothly that it seems madness to disrupt one of the best things to have happened to England in years.

Against Australia in 1989, England used six openers but not one of 11 Test innings began with a stand of more than 35. The average was 14;

FIRST-CLASS CAREER RECORDS

Batting and fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	C/A
M A Atherton	77	129	15	5429	191	47.62	15	23	55
M P Beckford	81	73	28	770	307	14.54	—	1	26
A R C Fraser	94	104	26	392	92	12.33	—	1	13
D J Gower	431	57	31	3163	333	48.11	66	127	426
D I Gower	379	609	56	2236	228	40.26	46	112	239
E E Hemmings	456	595	137	9003	127	19.65	28	188	188
A J Lamb	404	52	24	2634	264	48.11	66	127	274
W Larkins	399	693	42	2272	282	34.22	49	92	234
C C Lewis	51	75	10	1480	189	22.48	1	4	34
D E Malcolm	85	91	28	1250	51	15.24	—	1	15
J E Morris	170	283	24	9738	191	37.83	23	46	76
R C Russell	13	13	1	13	13	13.00	—	—	—
G C Small	226	281	66	3326	70	14.82	—	—	—
R A Smith	180	303	85	10841	209	43.71	27	51	114
A J Stewart	188	272	51	9637	363	38.03	16	64	206
P C R Tufnell	63	60	21	434	37	11.12	—	—	—

Bowling

	Tests	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	SI	10m
M A Atherton	78	7893	393	59	41.59	6-78	3
M P Beckford	147	5810	158	36.78	8-63	1	—
A R C Fraser	186	7416	309	24.00	7-77	15	2
D J Gower	162	7328	213	34.40	7-14	3	—
D I Gower	228	223	4	55.75	3-47	—	—
E E Hemmings	456	8715	367	1325	28.24	10-175	64
A J Lamb	277	156	4	27.53	1-1	—	—
W Larkins	399	1852	42	44.08	5-69	1	—
C C Lewis	75	4188	150	27.92	6-22	7	2
D E Malcolm	85	7853	280	28.02	6-58	1	—
J E Morris	711	710	4	177.50	1-13	—	—
R C Russell	13	13	1	13.00	—	—	—
G C Small	183	658	28	7.15	27	2	—
R A Smith	595	520	9	57.77	2-11	—	—
A J Stewart	188	311	6	51.83	3-5	—	—
P C R Tufnell	153	5720	182	35.00	6-50	6	—

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Australia's was 67. In a one-sided summer, this was England's most consistent and demoralising failing, one that Gooch and Atherton must have the chance to put right this winter.

Atherton's leg spin was held up to ridicule at the Oval in August, but it must not be discarded; on Australian pitches it could yet be valuable. Spin, however, will sadly not decide the coming series, for Australia are no better off than England. Allowing for the possibility of a revival by Australia's Bruce Reid, the bowling contests likely to prove decisive are Alderman against Fraser and Hughes against Malcolm.

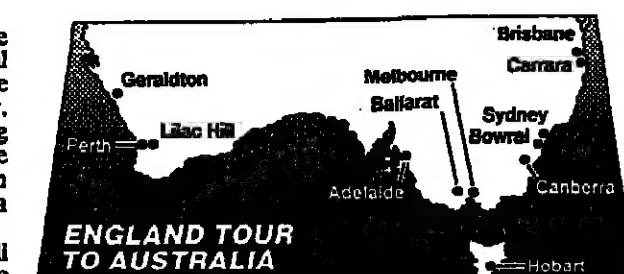
Alderman has never been quite the same force away

from English pitches but he starts with a psychological thumbhold on a number of the visiting batsmen: Fraser, bowling in similar probing style, must seek to gain the same advantage. Both men will be expected to bowl a great number of overs.

Hughes and Malcolm will be promoted, as only the Australian publicity machine knows how, as the nasty head hunters, the scowling, bruising assassins. Any day now, a catch phrase will roll from Channel 9's commercial breaks. But, while Malcolm's achievements to date are largely confined to a couple of West Indies Tests and a whole lot more perceived potential, Hughes has made real and enormous strides.

There was once a temptation to regard his image as a silly joke camouflaging an ordinary bowler but 34 wickets in six home Tests last winter tell a different tale. Hughes will be a worthy strike weapon and if he decisively outbows Malcolm, England will be in a tight corner.

There will, as is only traditional in Ashes series, be the periodical spats on such matters as sledging, short-pitched bowling and short-striding umpires. There will be constant fascination in the duel of the captains, whose respect for each other knows no bounds. But, as tends to be the case in Test cricket, it will all come down to a matter of bowling the opposition out twice. If England are to win, then their two best and most reliable bowlers must take 50 wickets between them. Only then, I suspect, can the Ashes be recaptured.



England tour to Australia	
Oct 25 (one day): v President's XI, Lilac Hill	Nov 2 (four days): v Western Australia, Perth
Oct 27 (two days): v Western Australia, Perth	Nov 7 (one day): v South Australia, Adelaide
Oct 30 (one day): v Western Australia, Perth	Nov 9 (four days): v South Australia, Adelaide
Nov 2 (four days): v Western Australia, Perth	Nov 14 (one day): v Tasmania, Hobart
Nov 7 (one day): v South Australia, Adelaide	Nov 16 (five days): v Australia XI, Brisbane
Nov 9 (four days): v South Australia, Adelaide	Nov 23 (five days): v Australian Cricket Academy, Adelaide
Nov 14 (one day): v Tasmania, Hobart	Dec 1 (one day): v Prime Minister's XI, Canberra
Nov 16 (five days): v Australia XI, Brisbane	Dec 4 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Perth
Nov 23 (five days): v Australian Cricket Academy, Adelaide	Dec 7 (one day): v Sir Donald Bradman's XI, Boro
Dec 1 (one day): v Prime Minister's XI, Canberra	Dec 11 (one day): v WSC v New Zealand, Sydney
Dec 4 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Perth	Dec 13 (one day): v WSC v New Zealand, Sydney
Dec 7 (one day): v Sir Donald Bradman's XI, Boro	Dec 15 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Brisbane
Dec 11 (one day): v WSC v New Zealand, Sydney	Dec 18 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Brisbane
Dec 13 (one day): v WSC v New Zealand, Sydney	Dec 20 (four days): v Victoria, Ballarat
Dec 15 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Brisbane	Dec 26 (five days): v Second Test v Australia, Melbourne
Dec 18 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Brisbane	Jan 1 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Sydney
Dec 20 (four days): v Victoria, Ballarat	Jan 4 (five days): v Third Test v Australia, Sydney
Dec 26 (five days): v Second Test v Australia, Melbourne	Jan 13 (one day): v First WSC final, Sydney
Jan 1 (one day): v WSC v Australia, Sydney	Jan 15 (one day): v Second WSC final, Melbourne
Jan 4 (five days): v Third Test v Australia, Sydney	Jan 17 (one day): v Third WSC final, Melbourne
Jan 13 (one day): v First WSC final, Sydney	Jan 19 (four days): v Queensland, Cairns
Jan 15 (one day): v Second WSC final, Melbourne	Jan 25 (five days): v Fourth Test v Australia, Adelaide
Jan 17 (one day): v Third WSC final, Melbourne	Feb 1 (one day): v Fifth Test v Australia, Perth
Jan 19 (four days): v Queensland, Cairns	Feb 9 (one day): v New Zealand, Christchurch
Jan 25 (five days): v Fourth Test v Australia, Adelaide	Feb 13 (one day): v New Zealand, Wellington
Feb 1 (one day): v Fifth Test v Australia, Perth	Feb 16 (one day): v New Zealand, Auckland

Dexter points to facts

TED Dexter, chairman of the England committee, claimed yesterday that the selectors process for Test matches had been much improved in recent years. Speaking at a lunch in London at which the Bull/Cricketer awards for 1990 were made, he said that proper records had not been kept before he took over and more county matches were being watched.

"If a cricketer is dropped there are good reasons in black and white why that has happened. The facts and figures have been kept to prove it. The England committee is making some progress." He added that Graham Gooch was not afraid to drop a player.

BULL/CRICKETER STRIKE RATE AWARDS: Test batsmen: M A Atherton (191 runs for 393 wickets), D J Gower (2236 runs for 213 wickets), D I Gower (9003 runs for 367 wickets), A J Lamb (2634 runs for 280 wickets), J E Morris (9738 runs for 28 wickets), R C Russell (13 runs for 1 wicket), G C Small (3326 runs for 28 wickets), R A Smith (10841 runs for 9 wickets), A J Stewart (9637 runs for 6 wickets), P C R Tufnell (434 runs for 182 wickets).

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

The two wise men and the lessons of boxing history do not worry Holyfield

Douglas confronts alter ego

From SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

JAMES "Buster" Douglas is ready for the showdown, even if the line callers of this town think he will not be able to wrap his gun belt around his stomach. He will be coming out today for his man: James "Buster" Douglas. Douglas will have to face Evander Holyfield in defence of his undisputed world heavyweight title.

There are two Douglases: the one that stopped Mike Tyson in the eighth round in Tokyo eight months ago and the other that stopped Tony Tucker in this town in 1987. Nobody knows, not even Douglas, which Douglas will show up. "It's not Evander I'm fighting, it's myself," Douglas said two weeks ago. "I can be champion for as long as Buster Douglas wants to be. I respect Evander's ability as a contender, but I respect myself more."

As late as Tuesday, Douglas's own camp did not even know his weight. "We haven't tried to weigh him," Douglas's uncle and trainer, J. D. McCauley, said. If the "Tyson" Douglas stepped into the ring at the Mirage Hotel, Holyfield would suffer the same fate as Tyson. If the Tucker one arrives, the new sheriff would be run out of town. From Douglas's sparring sessions it has looked all along like the man who jabbed Tyson into submission will be there.

The challenger, though in superb condition, does not seem big enough to become only the second light-heavyweight champion to win a heavyweight title. Laughran, Conn, Maxim, Lesnevich, Moore and Foster all failed. Only Michael Spinks managed it against a Larry Holmes well past his best.

McCauley said: "You take Holyfield out of the weightlifting gym where they've had him for a few years and you got a guy walking around at 195lb. Look at his legs. They are pop bottles. They have made a heavyweight from the waist up, a robot with a light-heavyweight brain."

While Holyfield can take comfort from the fact that Marciano weighed less than 190lb and knocked out bigger heavyweights, the history of contests between big and small men for the heavyweight title is against him.

Holyfield looked in control when disposing of light-heavyweights and cruiserweights but seemed out of his depth at

Tale of the tape

	Douglas	Holyfield
Age	30	27
Height	6ft 4in	6ft 2in
Weight	195lb	175lb
Reach	77in	72in
Stance	Orthodox	Orthodox
Expanding	43in	43in
Flexion	43in	43in
Forearm	12in	12in
Wrist	32in	32in
Thigh	22in	22in
Calf	13in	13in
Shin	18in	18in
Wrist	18in	18in
Hand	12in	12in
Foot	12in	12in
Instep	12in	12in
Instep	12in	12in

RECORDS
Douglas: 30 wins (20 knockouts), 4 defeats, 1 draw.
Holyfield: 24 wins (20 knockouts), 1 defeat, 1 draw.

times against heavyweights, even though they were hand-picked. He had little trouble against sparring heavyweights like James Tillis, Pinklon Thomas and Adilson Rodrigues, but had to struggle against Michael Dokes and Alex Stewart.

In every contest, Holyfield has impressed with his strength, courage and stamina, but his defence has been almost non-existent. Lack of lateral movement, which his camp has tried to cure by calling in Maroia Kennett, a ballet teacher from New York, makes him an easy target for the jab.

Douglas, who has an advantage of almost two inches in height and six inches in reach, should have no trouble getting through. He has an excellent jab that had Tyson confused. Many believe that had Douglas agreed to a re-match immediately, it would have been more of the same for Tyson.

It would not surprise me if Douglas did "a number" on Holyfield in the end and stopped him. As Eddie Futch, who used to be in Joe Frazier's corner, says: "Douglas will be too big, too strong, too experienced and boxes too well." So, too, Angelo Dundee: "Douglas is what the doctor didn't find for Holyfield. He's big, strong and has a good left hand and is mobile."

Holyfield is not put out by history or the two wise men of boxing. "All fighters get hit," Holyfield says. "That's part of boxing. I have the edge in conditioning and if it goes into the later rounds it will come down to how much Buster can endure."

Holyfield has certainly convinced the bookmakers, who have him at 2-1 on. But McCauley warned: "We are going to win. I told them that in Tokyo and no one listened. No one's listening now. It's like when Noah built the ark. No one listened. No one believed it was going to rain. It's going to rain."



Lail before the storm: Douglas ponders a query about his heavyweight title defence

Pyatt presses for rematch

By BRYAN STYLES

JOHN David Jackson is off on his bike chasing more world titles and bigger purses, while Chris Pyatt, his latest victim, is still running to catch up.

Pyatt wants a rematch but Jackson cannot hear him as he pedals furiously in the direction of two other world champions, Gianfranco Rosi, of Italy, and our own Nigel Benn, whom he describes as "everybody's favourite puncher, just suited to my style."

His comprehensive defeat of Pyatt as he back-peddled with skill and cunning to retain his World Boxing Organisation light-middleweight title on Tuesday night renewed Jackson's faith in a boxing strategy that flummoxed Pyatt, who seemed unable to change his flawed battle plan.

The London-born boxer admitted he had fought the wrong fight but declared he was still among the best light-

middleweights in the world and was convinced he would defeat Jackson next time around.

Even though there are four world titles to aim for at this weight, Frank Warren, Pyatt's manager, also sees Jackson as the champion's man has the best chance of toppling, despite the overwhelming and unanimous verdict of the neutral Puerto Rican judges on Tuesday. One made Jackson a winner by nine points, another by six and the last by four. With scores like that stacked against him Pyatt will need a completely new philosophy if Jackson ever does allow him to share the ring with him again.

Pyatt's flimsy guard seemed to get longer and more damaging as the bout went on. Warren will need all his persuasive powers as he tries to convince Jackson's manager, Stan Hoffman, to agree to a

rematch. At least, Warren is over the first hurdle, persuading Hoffman to extend his stay in Britain so that he can work on him. Hoffman was adamant shortly after the bout, though, that Jackson was heading in another direction.

The defeat will have sent Pyatt tumbling down the rankings and the chances are that he will have to take on other ranked light-middleweights before he gets another shot.

Herold Graham's challenge for the vacant WBC middleweight title against Julian Jackson on November 24 has been switched from Marbella to Benalmadena, 20 miles along the Spanish coast.

John Davison is to make the second defence of his WBC international featherweight title on November 13 at Hartlepool, against Jae Hyung Hwang, a former South Korean champion.

GOLF

Marks has his team in relaxed mood

McNulty making late claim to depose Woosnam

From JOHN HENNESSY
IN CHRISTCHURCH

GEOFF Marks, the captain of Great Britain and Ireland, is taking an unexpectedly relaxed view of the world amateur team championship, to be held over the Shirley Cup course during the next four days. "My job is to see the players enjoy it and don't get too serious about it," he said yesterday.

He is not a man biting his nails under the strain of defending the Eisenhower Trophy won in Sweden two years ago. He has, indeed, the air of somebody who has done it all before, and successfully, having also won the Walker Cup in the United States last year.

That is a unique accolade. He seeks another this week, since no British team, nor any other apart from the United States, has been able to successfully defend the Eisenhower.

The players under Marks's command are Jim Milligan and Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, and Ricky Willison and Gary Evans, of England. Milligan, aged 27, the only survivor from Sweden, has always been on the winning side in Great Britain and Ireland's twin colours, twice against the Continent of Europe for the St Andrews trophy and once each in the Eisenhower and Walker Cup.

Willison, aged 31, brings maturity to the team, though with a lightening-fast green eye for the first time. He is a splendid man to have around, good natured and good humoured, the perfect foil to his room-mate, the gifted but intense Evans, aged 21.

Coltart, aged 20, has been recognised in Scotland as a special talent for some seasons now, with doubt, though, about his temperament. Marks, however, has enrolled a number of followers as counsellors should the need arise.

The Shirley course, where Bob Charles honed his skills to perfection, is a demanding test, 7,000 yards long. Marks sees a similarity to Little Aston. "You must hit it long and straight," he said, "and if you miss these lightning-fast greens you could have an impossible shot."

As for his players' form, he says with a smile: "They're all playing badly, which is a good sign. Remember Peach Tree and the Walker Cup last year?"

Marks sees the United States, France and New Zealand as the principal challengers. The Australians are also worth keeping an eye on.

Peter Hobson, aged 34, from South Yorkshire, won the Clerical Medical Seniors at East Sussex National yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). Hobson, an eight handicapper from Rotherham Golf Club, won the two-day, 36-hole, non-competitive event for over-30s, which involved more than 60,000 players.

LEADING SCORES: 78 P Hobson (Rotherham), 37, 38, 72; A Spence (Lingfield), 37, 38, 72; D Pugh (Plym), 35, 35, 69; R S Pugh (Plym), 34, 35, 69; R S Pugh (Plym), 34, 35, 69.

From MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
SOTOGRADE, SPAIN

MARK McNulty, of Zimbabwe, will attempt to reverse the pattern of the year by dislodging Ian Woosnam from the No. 1 position when the Volvo Masters starts here today on the Valderrama course.

McNulty has finished runner-up to Woosnam on three occasions during a fascinating European season, on which the curtain falls this week. Yet he can still hold the Volvo Order of Merit by winning the first prize of £75,000.

"It seems like I've spent the year finishing second to Ian and I'm determined for it not to happen again this week," McNulty said. "It would mean a lot to me to be No. 1, although I'm not going to tie up with the notion that it will be the end of my world if I fail."

"Quite honestly, I would like to be in Ian's position. He's in the driving seat, he's ten lengths ahead entering the final furlong. But I'm certainly not conceding the top spot to him."

Woosnam admits to being a touch rusty after a week off, although with £478,668 he is well aware that he need only finish in the top three to secure the No. 1 position for the second time in his career. He will, however, be driven by the thought that his sixth win of the year would be worth £165,000, because Volvo offers a £50,000 bonus to the leader of the Order of Merit.

On the threshold of being No. 1 again, Woosnam is looking forward to 1991 with an eye on the major championships. "I need to win one for that final seal of approval," Woosnam said. "I'm happy. I know I'm one of the best players in the world, but for all others to recognise that then I need to get my name on one of those big four trophies. I've been second, third and fourth and I think my chances of winning one have considerably improved because I've become a better putter."

Both Woosnam and McNulty have found success on the greens this year with the assistance of ladies' putters. It will take a good putter to win this week, because the wicked contours of the Valderrama course require an eagle eye and an authoritative touch.

McNulty, too, acknowledges that his prospects are improved because of the severe examination set by the course. "I think there are only 15 players who can win this week," he said. "It's not like a Crans-sur-Sierre where someone can shoot lights out. On this course you have to grind out solid scores."

In 24 tournaments this season, McNulty has finished outside the top ten only six times. Woosnam, however, knows that he holds an Indian sari over his rival and that as McNulty must win, he also has on his side players such as Ronan Rafferty, the defending champion, Jose Maria Olazábal, Bernhard Langer, Mark O'Meara, Larry Lyle, David Federer, Sam Torrance and Rodger Davis.

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

Red Star consign hapless Rangers towards oblivion

From RODDY FORSYTH
IN BELGRADE

Red Star Belgrade..... 3
Rangers..... 0

IT IS not beyond the bounds of possibility that Rangers can proceed to the quarter-finals of the European Cup but, after as thorough a beating as the Scottish football champions have endured at this level, the possibility that they will make any further impact on the tournament is a forlorn hope.

Red Star possess a goalkeeper who is suspect when confronted with deep crosses and defenders who dislike being forced to turn, but even if Rangers could exploit these defects, they must score four goals without reply in the return leg at Ibrox. The Yugoslav champions demonstrated such vision and technique that the chances of their failing to supplement their own total are remote.

After a 30-minute inquest in the dressing-room with his players, the Rangers manager, Graeme Souness, conceded that his hopes of steering his team to the European Cup

final are all but dashed. He said: "We were lucky to get away with only a three-goal defeat. They are an excellent side and although always in football you must be optimistic, on occasions like this you have to be a realist."

"We have a monumental task in front of us. Chris Woods had an outstanding game but he got little help from those in front of him. We knew that Red Star are a very good side and it was up to us to defend well but after the start we had in losing an early goal it was always going to be extremely difficult."

In fact, it was fortunate for Rangers that the commanding Savicevic was absent, the victim of an injury, because his presence would very probably have added another dimension to a Red Star side which was, in the event, orchestrated by the latest Belgrade prodigy, Robert Prosinecki. It was Prosinecki whose 30-yard diagonal crossfield pass dissected the Scottish champions and brought about the opening goal, which was untimely from Rangers' point of view.

Radinovic was stationed on the touchline outside Munro when he received the benefit of Prosinecki's vision, a pass played so perfectly ahead of him that the Yugoslav full back merely had to let his momentum carry the ball beyond his opponent and into a void on the edge of the Rangers penalty area. From there, Radinovic might have tried a shot with profit, but instead he chose to strike a forceful square ball across the crowded goalmouth.

Brown read the menace correctly but the speed of the cross was his undoing because his interception became a deflection which swept past the transfixed Chris Woods. At that stage, all the indications were that Rangers might be about to endure a collapse and a survey of the first half only reinforces the belief that it was a wonder that they were not indeed submerged.

Woods's contribution plus the profligacy of the home forwards, a byword amongst the Red Star supporters, combined to keep the inevitable at bay until more than an hour of the contest had passed. Ironically, when the Yugoslavs struck again, it was at a time when Rangers looked at ease in defence.

The crack in the ramparts came when Binić, marauding on the edge of the Rangers' area, was tripped by Stevens. Prosinecki shaped as if to direct the resultant free kick towards a friendly head at the back post. Instead, he curled the ball wickedly over the defensive wall to Woods's right, where it struck the inside edge of the post and ricocheted along the goal line to spin off the far post and into the net.

This was really the limit of Rangers' margin for error but within three minutes their hopes all but toppled over the brink. Walters, who had been more productive than most in blue jerseys, forced two corner kicks to relieve the pressure at the opposite end. His endeavour, however, was rendered fruitless when Red Star promptly surged upfield to release Binić on the right flank.

Amazingly, the Scottish defenders chose to remain static even when it was evident that Binić was not offside as they may have imagined and the Slav pressed on to deliver a simple cutback which Pancev merely had to divert into the net.

RED STAR BELGRADE: S. Stojanovic; D. Radinovic; S. Marovic; I. Stankovic; M. Belodjevic; I. Najdoski; R. Prosinecki; V. Stosic; D. Pantic; V. Jugovic; D. Binić. RANGERS: C. Woods; G. Stevens; S. Munro; R. Goulding; N. Spackman; J. Brown; T. Steven; I. Ferguson; M. Walters; N. Johnston; P. Hume (sub: A. McDonald). Referee: J. Quinlan (France).

● Gary Lineker, the England captain, will collect the Stanley Matthews Trophy on behalf of his international colleagues at the London Hilton next Wednesday. The Central Council of Physical Recreation inaugurated the award last year for the club, team or individual adjudged annually to have made an outstanding contribution to sportsmanship in football.

"Now he will be out for months rather than weeks. The premier division is too tough and it is up to referees to sort it out."

Souness's statement reveals

WHERE
DO ACTORS GET
THEIR BEST
PARTS THESE
DAYS?
DAVID LYNCH?
OR
COSMETIC
SURGEONS?



This month's GQ looks at the changing face of cosmetic surgery. Plus: Twin Peaks, Bernardo Bertolucci and Graceland.

GQ. The men's magazine with an IQ. November issue out now.

A Condé Nast Publication

Graham will not lodge an appeal

GEORGE Graham, the Arsenal manager, will not appeal against the fine imposed on him by his club after the brawl between Arsenal and Manchester United players at Old Trafford on Saturday.

However, Graham's "trade union", the Football League Executive Staffs Association, has warned clubs not to follow suit and allow the fining of managers to become a regular habit.

Graham consulted FLESA after the fine of two weeks' wages was imposed on him by Arsenal on Tuesday, when the club's board held him responsible for the lack of discipline on the field which led to the Old Trafford incident.

According to a FLESA statement released yesterday, however, Graham is accepting the punishment given to him.

"FLESA deplores last Saturday's events at Old Trafford and welcomes the quick action taken by Manchester United and Arsenal," the statement said.

The fine imposed by Arsenal on manager, George Graham, is unprecedented, but he does not wish to take the matter further. He accepts that he is responsible to the Board for discipline and that its action is not unreasonable in the circumstances.

It went on: "FLESA hopes very much, however, that the fining of members by clubs will not become widespread and points out that, as with players, all members have the right of appeal to the Football League."

Arsenal also fined five players — Anders Limpar, Nigel Winterburn, Michael Thomas, David Rocastle and Paul Davis — two weeks' wages for their parts in the 21-man melee. Each is believed to be forfeiting £5,000 of their pay, Graham as much as £9,000. The Arsenal chairman, Peter Hill-Wood, said the fines would be donated to charity by the club.

Manchester United, meanwhile, have confirmed that they have fined a third player involved in the incident.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, punished the player after re-examining the club's video of Saturday's match. Ferguson had already fined two players, but refused to identify them. After announcing the third fine, he again refused to name the player.

Ferguson has maintained all along that disciplinary action taken within the club is an internal affair and not for wider publication.

The Football Association has charged both clubs with bringing the game into disrepute. It is to hold a commission of enquiry into the Old Trafford incident next month.

Call for plugging of a gap in the drug laws

THE three members of the Sports Council's enquiry into drug-taking in weightlifting want the possession of anabolic steroids to be made a criminal offence (John Goodbody writes).

In a television programme to be broadcast tonight, Norman Jacobs, a solicitor, who is the chairman of the investigation, says Customs and Excise is "powerless" to prevent hormone drugs from coming into Britain.

"If a person claims on bringing them in — never mind the quantity — that they are for his own use then there is no offence. Possession of these drugs is not an offence," he said.

"There is no doubt in our minds that all three of us would welcome a change in the law," Jacobs says on *Facing South*, a

TVS production. The other two members of the panel are Professor "Taffy" Cameron, of the London Hospital, and Professor Peter Radford, of Glasgow University.

The enquiry was set up after a spate of scandals in the sport.

● A Welsh, Commonwealth Games official, Myrdin John, yesterday accused the Sports Council of Wales of using blackmailing tactics by threatening to withdraw cash aid from the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales unless the organisation undertakes a radical shake-up.

"We will not be blackmailed into doing something for the sake of money," John said. "We have a democratic organisation which was set up in 1977, long before the Sports Council."

England in a temporary net gain



Poacher turned gamekeeper: Graham Gooch, the injured England cricket captain, watches Angus Fraser bowl in the nets yesterday. England's preparations, page 42

Fulton's line-up missing linchpin

By KEITH MACKLIN

WHEN Bobby Fulton, the Australian coach, announced his team for Saturday's first rugby league international at Wembley the name of Cliff Lyons was missing. He was not even among the replacements.

However, Lyons looks to have a good chance of making an appearance because of the withdrawal of the first-choice stand-off half, Laurie Daley, who broke a bone in his hand at Leeds on Sunday.

Daley failed a fitness test yesterday and it is expected that either Lyons or the scrum half, Ricky Stuart, will take over the No. 6 spot.

Otherwise, there are no surprises in Fulton's selection for the match, sponsored by British Coal. The only change from the normal first-choice line-up is the return, after injury, of the second-row forward, John Cartwright.

This has been the basis of the team that has carried the Australians to impressive victories at St Helens, Wigan and Leeds, although British supporters took heart at Headingley on Sunday when Leeds led 10-6 at half-time and only capitulated to superior pace and staying power.

The decision to give Daley every chance to declare his fitness was understandable. His partnership with the brilliant and elusive scrum half, Allan Langer, had been one of the features of the tour so far. Lyons is an experienced international player, and is capable of playing in several positions, but he cannot provide the link between forwards and three-quarters as well as Daley.

"The Australians are doing a splendid public relations job in the run-up to the game at Wembley. Players who have not been selected for the international are being kept busy with a heavy promotional programme which includes visits to pubs in Hampstead, Teddington, Northwood, and Epsom."

The Great Britain squad trained yesterday at the Shaw Hill Country Club at Chorley, and will move to their London headquarters today.

AUSTRALIA: G. Beckett; B. Simpson; M. Maitland; M. Harte; G. Loftholm; R. Stuart; A. Langer; S. Brown; K. Walters; M. Hall; P. Brown; J. Brown; G. Loftholm; S. Brown; M. Hall; P. Brown; J. Brown.

● Bobby Goulding, the Wigan and Great Britain scrum half, is in disciplinary trouble again. Goulding will appear before the League's disciplinary committee today after his sending-off for alleged dissent during Wigan's reserve game at Oldham last week. Last month, he was warned about his future conduct after an off-the-field incident during the Great Britain tour of New Zealand.

Becker takes up Davis Cup

BONN (Reuters) — Boris Becker, who guided West Germany to Davis Cup tennis triumphs in 1988 and 1989, is to play for his country again next year after refusing to take part in the competition for the past 12 months.

Ivan Lendl, meanwhile, said he may return to the 1991 French Open after his strategy of passing up the event this year failed to produce his first Wimbledon title.

Becker, the world No. 2, said in an interview with the German magazine, *Stern*, he

would be available from the first round next February when Germany meet Italy at home. Becker said last year he had decided to pull out of the competition because it had drained him of the energy and mental sharpness required to compile the points he needed to become No. 1 in the world.

But he admitted in the interview his decision had been made for other reasons. "The truth is I was upset by the VIP business at the final in Stuttgart; the caviar and champagne boxes and the way

the businessmen let down the real tennis fans by selling the tickets well in advance to firms and sponsors."

Lendl said: "If I feel I'm playing well and fit and have a chance to win the French I will play. If I feel I'm unfit or just not playing well then I will go to England and prepare for Wimbledon."

Lendl, the Australian Open champion, will prepare for the 1991 Australian Open by playing in the \$475,000 New South Wales Open in Sydney on January 7-13.

Woosnam in pursuit of record prize

SOTOGRADE, Spain — Ian Woosnam will become the richest prize-winner in European golf history if he secures the No. 1 spot in the Order of Merit after the Volvo Masters which begins at the Valderrama course here today (Mitchell Platt writes).

A £90,000 bonus for being No. 1 would increase his European earnings to £2,156,240 and lift him above Severiano Ballesteros (£2,138,596) and Nick Faldo (£1,845,635).

Meanwhile, Sandy Lyle is to relinquish his US PGA Tour membership

McNulty's challenge, page 42

Conflicting views on tours

WELLINGTON (Agencies) — The All Blacks will tour South Africa in 1992 provided it is politically acceptable, Eddie Tonks, the New Zealand Rugby Football Union chairman, said yesterday.

"We are due to go to South Africa in 1992, and I'll qualify that statement by saying that provided everything is politically stable and acceptable to the world at large," he told Radio New Zealand.

"If the ANC (African National Congress) and the Zulus get their heads together and the government break down the sanctions, then we'll go."

The 1992 date is on the International Rugby Board's tour schedule.

Tonks said he believed the time was right to resume

contact. "It's time the world at large got their heads together with the groups over there and got things settled."

But in Johannesburg, Steve Tshwete, who is a national executive committee member of the ANC, is the leading black spokesman on sport, said South African Rugby Board president, Danie Craven, was irresponsible recently when he spoke of breaking the moratorium on tours.

Craven, the 80-year-old leader of South African rugby since 1956, who has been useless in his efforts to get his country back into the mainstream of international rugby, threatened to break his promise on no tours while talks go on with the South African

Rugby Union president, Ebrahim Patel, after an historic match in Soweto was called off because of black pressure.

South Africa are candidates for the 1995 World Cup and any hitches in forming a single ruling body for the sport harms their chances.

Tshwete warned any such tour would have wider implications. "This will not affect only the talks on sport. It will have serious repercussions," he said.

He claimed the SARB was too short-sighted. "Craven must turn his tour to this country," Tshwete said. Craven was still the president of a racist body, "Craven has done nothing except screaming in the papers," he said.

The lone sailor slapped in the face by a wet fish

IF FABLES were true, the hold of New Spirit of Ipswich would be filled with gold right now. A few days ago, I sailed as close as can be possible to the end of a beautiful rainbow. The colours, in stark contrast, streamed from the base of a tall, black raincloud. But the wind beneath such a cloud was gold enough for me, having spent three hours becalmed.

The doldrums were nothing that I expected and all I had not. There were no balmy clear days trickling along under full sail; instead, the skies were generally leaden and heavy, the seas subsequently black or grey. It is here that the southern and northern hemispheres meet and it is often a volatile abrasion. Each day, the wind swings from 0 to 30 knots and often through 180. Becalmed, it feels crazy to be reefing sails at the approach of a dark cloud, but experience has taught me to be gun-shy of the cool blasts that lurk beneath them. There is little or no rest for solo sailors here with constantly fluctuating wind strength and direction making this the most frustrating part of the race so far.

JOSH BALL reports from on board New Spirit of Ipswich in the south Atlantic, heading for Cape Town in the BOC single-handed round the world yacht race

Mondays are rarely good days and Monday, October 9 got off to a bad start for me. We single-handers take a certain pride in our ability to dodge spray and deck-washing waves and at first light I chose my moment carefully to peer around the sprayhood and check the weather horizon. I missed the spray but caught a sizeable flying fish right between the eyes.

The experience, for us both, was more shock than pain — he was soon back in the briny and I just as quickly below. I should have taken the hint and gone straight back to bed for the day but, as usual, the great BOC single-handed round the world race grmlin was on my back. He allows me to rest only through exhaustion, nags me to change sails, to alter course and to squeeze every knot of boat speed from Spirit. The trim of the yacht seemed different

that morning and sure enough a check of the forward watertight compartment revealed over 100 gallons, 1000lb, of sea water sloshing around.

Once bailed, I found the source of the leak — a loosened deck fitting that was soon resealed. Back on deck, we were becalmed yet again. Heavy clouds encircled us with shafts of rain streaming from them. It was an evil atmosphere. I stood in the cockpit expectantly. The wind veered, the sails backed, a darkness overtook us. Another squall, but this one did not look too bad. It was bad. Inside two minutes, I had 38 knots of wind and struggled to reef the sails.

Two reefs in the main, staysail up, two tons of water ballast in the weather tank and we blasted along through an almost solid wall of tropical rain. I went below to log our new course and as I wrote I was shaken by a loud ominous bang — the rig had failed, I thought. A check aloft, the mast was still there; it was the second reefing pennant exploding.

Third reef in, change the pennant

and rehoist, cursing the heavens all the way. This (not so bad) squall lasted into the night — what happened to the doldrums! It forced me over to the east for 12 hours longer than the yacht ahead and Sponsor Wanted, subsequently gained 60 miles on me. It is annoying but this race is a game of snakes and ladders — now and again you get swallowed, undoing days of hard-won miles. Midnight and we sat becalmed once again — definitely a Monday to forget.

A more-than-welcome respite from all of this is the radio — a daily chat with Robin Davis on Global Exposure, with friends in the States, and the odd link call home are always rejuvenating. The day I crossed the equator I placed a call through to one of the Ipswich primary schools following the race. The sound of 200 kids giving three cheers raised the spirits of myself and the radio operator.

It was 10.30am on October 12 that I passed into the south Atlantic and at last the south-east trades are

blowing hard. I was in third place in Class 2 then (although I have since slipped to fourth), the breeze was steady and my course was southward to skirt around the south Atlantic high.

The most frightening experience of the race so far occurred the other night. Dozing at the chart table, I was woken by a slap in the face. A distressed migrating swallow had flown into the cabin and flapped around me frantic to escape. Half-asleep, I thought the angel of death was upon me and easily beat him in the race to the hatch. He followed but not before leaving some well-hidden deposits around the cabin.

The lee rail is dug hard into the water and Spirit is gunning for the boats ahead. Surely it is time they found a snake or two on the board. The frustrations of the doldrums are behind us, there is a fresh chart on the table ready to receive crosses, coffee stains and ravioli spots — the race is on again.

Gantler's dilemma, page 43

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